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Waking up to a changing America: What's next?



COURTESY OF DAVID SAVELIEV, WILL ANDERSON AND THE JOHNS HOPKINS PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM
President Trump's inauguration and ensuing executive orders have caused concerned citizens across the nation to demonstrate. Diverse causes now find support from activists ready to speak up and protect American ideals. Clockwise from L-R: Women's March on Washington, Baltimore Women's March, Protest at BWI airport, President Trump's Inauguration.

Detained at Dulles: an Iranian student's story

By **ROLLIN HU**
News & Features Editor

Javad Fotouhi, a third-year PhD student studying computer science at Hopkins, was traveling back to the United States after visiting family in Iran when he and his wife were detained at Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C.

Fotouhi was born in Iran, but has held a green card for the past three and a half years. On Jan. 11, Fotouhi and his wife, who has held a green card for 27 years, left the United States for Iran. Last Sat-

urday, he and his wife landed at Dulles and were detained for four hours by customs officials. This came following the executive order that President Donald Trump signed last Friday, which barred individuals from coming to the U.S. from seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Iran.

The following is an edited and condensed retelling of his story in his own words:

"I think it was on Wednesday when the news came out that the first draft of the executive order was out, and

the actual executive order would be signed soon. All the news channels and agencies were writing that it was only going to affect the visa holders.

I was partially worried but I also had hopes. I still thought that most likely it's not going to affect us, because we had green cards for many years. We both have full time jobs here. We were only out for 17 days, and we thought most likely they are going to let us in, and it's not going to affect us.

That Friday, I started to get more and more worried. I read the news that the President was going to sign the order today, on Friday, and I was flying in Tehran's time at Saturday at 7:40 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m. Tehran time, I read the news that the President had just signed, but no details were out. No one really knew what the details were or the extent of it, or when it would become effective.

Saturday morning, Tehran time, we got on the plane. There were no

problems to get from Tehran to Istanbul. That was my first flight. That was pretty smooth.

By the time I got to Istanbul, I checked on the news and I started reading that the green card holders were having issues now. There was a spreadsheet on the Internet going around and the people who were affected by this were writing their experiences, and some of the green card holders were writing that they were banned from entry or that they didn't let them board the plane. But it was very vague what was going to happen.

After a four-hour layover, the boarding of our flight started. They let us on board, we got on the plane, but they didn't let the plane depart. They held the plane there and the security officers came in and took out half passengers who were Iranian, like five or six or more. There were families with children. They took them out of the plane.

SEE FOTOUHI, PAGE A5

Hopkins students join the Women's March

By **VALERIE CHAVEZ**
For *The News-Letter*

On the day following President Donald Trump's inauguration, millions of Americans took to the streets for the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history.

At the Women's March on Washington, which took place on Jan. 21, protesters demonstrated for women's and worker's rights, immigration reform, and LGBT+ and racial equality.

Sister marches around the world took place simultaneously in solidarity. In Baltimore, a gathering on 33rd and Charles Street drew sev-

eral thousand people.

There were 673 marches worldwide, on all seven continents. Over 500,000 people marched in Washington D.C., with over 4.9 million participants worldwide. The march was organized online following Trump's election.

Hopkins students who participated in the Women's March sat down with *The News-Letter* to share their experiences at the historic event.

They described what the march meant to them and expressed their concerns about the Trump administration.

See our special coverage on page A6.

"I'm constantly discouraged by Trump, but encouraged by how people are reacting."

— MIKA INADOMI,
CLASS OF 2019

Pussy Riot founder bashes Trump at FAS

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
Staff Writer

Nadya Tolokonnikova, social activist and co-founder of the Russian punk rock protest group Pussy Riot, spoke at Shriver Hall on Wednesday. It was the first Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) event for this semester.

Tolokonnikova, a radical feminist and opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was imprisoned for two years after performing a protest song at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior

in 2012. Her talk focused extensively on President Donald Trump and his rise to power, discussing her own experiences under Putin's leadership and the importance of mass resistance.

Tolokonnikova was very forward about her dislike for Trump.

"When I'm saying the whole world is in deep sh*t, I don't think I'm overreacting," she said.

Responding to those who have accused her of being "hysterical," she stated that this in itself

SEE PUSSY RIOT, PAGE A7

Trump's travel ban rattles Hopkins community

By **SAM FOSSUM**
News & Features Editor
& **WILL ANDERSON**
Editor-in-Chief

President Donald Trump's executive order banning citizens from sev-

eral predominantly Muslim countries had a direct and sweeping effect on the Hopkins community.

The order, which was signed on Friday, Jan. 27 immediately confused passengers, as well as fed-

eral agencies and airlines as they attempted to enforce and comply with the travel ban.

International students and faculty affected by the order can no longer visit family or travel to academic conferences, fearing they will not be allowed to return.

Over the weekend, Hopkins students joined protests at the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) Airport, and an Iranian graduate student and his wife were detained at Washington Dulles International Airport for four hours.

On Saturday, University President Ronald J. Daniels released a statement saying that the Uni-

versity was closely monitoring the situation and endorsed a statement calling for an end to the ban. Early Wednesday morning, Daniels sent an emotional letter condemning Trump's executive order.

The University Responds

Daniels' letter described the order's effect on the Hopkins community, citing the difficult decisions faculty, students and prospective patients now face.

"[T]he order stands in unambiguous opposition to our country's long-cherished values and ideals. Openness, freedom of ideas, opportunity for the many, not the few.

SEE BAN, PAGE A5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Count Olaf will see you now

Netflix's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, starring Neil Patrick Harris, is a smart and funny show.

ARTS, PAGE B4



Dear future historian...

Rollin Hu apologizes to future historians for the current state of affairs in this week's *Irrelevant History*. **VOICES, PAGE A9**

Fresh food finds in Remington

Hannah Melton shares two local spots which sell healthy and ethical produce at affordable prices. **YOUR WEEKEND, PAGE B2**

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA talks plans for the spring semester

By SEBASTIAN KETTNER
For The News-Letter

In its first meeting of the semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) reflected on the Fall 2016 semester and outlined some of its plans for this semester in the Charles Commons Barber Conference Room on Tuesday.

Senior Senator Matthew Brown announced that the Humanities Center, which faced the possibility of closure pending a review from the Neutral Committee, will stay open.

Syed Hossain, a senior senator, brought up the idea of doing a pre-professional event at some point this semester.

"Since there's a new director in the Pre-Professional Office, we figured it would be a cool idea to do a lap event where people could come in and do some networking," Hossain said.

Executive President Charlie Green outlined some of her plans for the forthcoming weeks. She will be speaking with former SGA Executive President Jason Plush, who resigned his post in Oct. 2015 citing mental health issues.

"I had a call with Jason Plush. He is coming to campus, and we're going to be discussing mental health initiatives around campus, because he works closely with a lot of groups on campus," Green said.

Junior Senator Kwame Alston, chair of the Finance Committee, brought up two groups that had applied for additional funding: WJHU Student Radio and the Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club (JHOC).

"WJHU is in need of some new equipment, and JHOC wants us to possibly co-sponsor their Black History Month event, which will be a film showing," Alston said.

Senior Senator Sathvik Namburar, the chair of Health and Safety Committee, spoke about his committee's plans to help increase education on sexual assault at Hopkins. He also spoke about the Smoking Ban Initiative, which supported moving ashtrays to areas 23-30 feet away from building entrances and windows.

"We had the idea of putting up sexual assault information in all public bathrooms on campus," Namburar said. "The Smoking Ban Initiative is also out of my hands right now. It has been presented."

Sophomore Senator AJ Tsang said that his Constitution and Bylaws Committee did not let the break affect their productivity.

"We had an awesome teleconference last week, and we created a summary for the Fall Forum, with a list of all the recommendations from two discussion sections. In addition to that, we finished adding all the Student Board revisions and bylaws," Tsang said.

During the rest of the meeting, senators reflected on the previous semester. They were asked by President Green to write on a piece of paper what they felt they had achieved and what they plan to do in the next semester.

Hopkins students witness protests on Inauguration Day



Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protestors formed a wall on the streets of D.C. so people could not pass.

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America on Friday, Jan. 20.

Many attended the inauguration ceremony to celebrate Trump's presidency, while others turned out in droves to protest what they considered harmful policy and rhetoric. The nation's capital was a hive of political tension on President Trump's Inauguration Day, as these two groups shared close quarters.

Among the sea of red baseball caps bearing the president's campaign slogan were marches through the city's streets, human blockades around entrances to the National Mall and small clumps of sign-wielding protesters who aimed to disrupt the ceremonial proceedings. They chanted slogans like "We are the popular vote!" and "This is what democracy looks like!"

Freshman Grace Troy explained that she didn't go to D.C. to be a part of the protests but instead to witness the ceremony as a self-identified moderate liberal.

"I wasn't exactly thrilled with the winner [of the election] but I thought being in Baltimore could be the closest I'm ever to D.C. during a presidential inauguration, so I wanted to go be a part of it and see the history that was this great American tradition," she said.

"Expected to feel this great wave of patriotism, but it was a bit underwhelming." Senior Allison Schingel also wanted to visit D.C. on Inauguration Day for its historical significance, but felt compelled to protest.

"I also knew that I'd feel powerless if I watched this ceremony from home," Schingel wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I feel a large amount of dread about this presidential administration. I want to express that I want to protest when I feel like it's useful,

for my wellbeing and the wellbeing of the nation."

Freshman Kopal Bansal agreed that the demonstrations were important but also denounced the violent aspects of the protest.

"If you're just holding up a sign or saying what you feel, that's fine," Bansal said. "But if you're going and destroying people's property, that should not be allowed."

People smashed windows in a Starbucks, which was a little too far." Bansal said she was surprised to see the violence, particularly after a speech which she considered to be an attempt to unify the country after a divisive campaign.

"I liked how he was saying whatever color of skin you are, we all bleed the same red blood," she said. "I feel like he was trying to unify people."

"We have the power to make real changes that could improve real lives."

— JESSA WAIS, JUNIOR

English professor debuts book on race and radicalism

By EMMA ROALSVIG
Staff Writer

Jared Hickman, associate English professor, spoke about the publication of his book *Black Prometheus: Race and Radicalism in the Age of Atlantic Slavery*, on Thursday, Jan. 19 at Red Emma's Bookstore and Coffeehouse.

Together with Hopkins colleague Herbert Baxter Adams, Chair and Associate Professor of History Nathan Connolly, Assistant Professor of English Jeanne-Marie Jackson, Africana Studies Lecturer Shani Mott and Director of the Center for Africana Studies Hollis Robbins, the event prompted a discussion on questions of race, materialist critique and the history and future of Atlantic radicalism.

On the eve of Donald Trump's inauguration and amid right-nationalist upsurges throughout the world, Hickman hoped that *Black Prometheus* would spur reflection on how to resist in the current political moment. Hickman believes *Black Prometheus* speaks to many questions about what place there is for identity politics and race in leftist theory and in practice.

"It seems to me often times in these conversations that race, if it is omitted into the equation at all, is frequently a supplementary term," Hickman said.

"It's accepted into the conversation in those cases in which race is aligned with class only when it can be fitted nicely into an analytic framework."

Hickman stated that the debunking of race as a biological reality is problematic.

"There is a way in which 'anti-racism' in many of its dominant formulations is fundamentally 'anti-race.' There's a fundamental antipathy towards race as a category," he said. "There's often this inescapable feeling that even as one is talking about race, one shouldn't be talking about it and one day won't have to, because on some level it is not real."

In *Black Prometheus*, he tries to historicize and deconstruct Marxist materialism to see how race might appear in that reconceptualization. Hickman introduced his theory of 'theo-geo-political economy' and argued that race originates in global encounters between people making sense of their and others' respective places in an encompassing culture of a finite space, the globe.

"This is where race originates," he said. "In encounters between humanizing divinities and divinizing humans. These are the moments in which specific territories and peoples are being marked in certain ways and po-

sitions in certain ways within this encompassing global reality."

In the following discussion with fellow panelists, Connolly spoke about how emancipation is linked to the figure of Prometheus meditated on the white theory of Marx and Hegel.

"We're all historical figures," Connolly said. "Prometheus steps away from the gods by risk of giving man the power of fire: a refutation of the godly power, and the extent to which any of us challenge a large system, we are essentially engaged in a kind of Promethean activity."

Jackson spoke about the need to do justice to a differentiated population in global literature and to resist the urge to generalize.

"One of the difficulties for me reading this book was not Jared's work, but rather the need to rely on a notion of 'African fetish' or the 'African subject' when you can never do that when working in actually global scholarly idio," Jackson said. "To call something African, I would be booted out of the room."

Mott spoke about white western desires to de-racialize history and her difficulty understanding her own relationship with the Marxist white western dichotomy of race and class.

"When I was coming through graduate study,

Racist, far-right groups are taking Trump's win as an excuse to be racist without being sorry for it, and that's wrong. Trump should clarify there. He has to say that he's not standing for racism. He was trying to bring people together, but I feel like he has to do a bit more."

Troy was more critical of his speech, stating that she wasn't impressed by what she saw as a series of empty promises and a continuation of the President's campaign rhetoric, particularly on the issue of returning jobs to American workers.

"It was like being at one of his rallies, and he was still trying to be elected," she said. "He's promising all these things. I don't know what his general plan is, but it's a little scary. He talked a lot about bringing jobs back and making America an industrial hub again and I think that's just not realistic. Those jobs aren't coming back and it's important that we start to realize that."

Regarding the inauguration ceremony, Schingel said she was amused by the absurdity of the whole situation.

"I got home and checked social media and saw the inauguration celebrations and protests, and it all struck me as comical," she wrote. "Trump is a garish, tacky figure. He has no class. The juxtaposition of himself and the seriousness and pomp of the inaugural celebrations was so stark. I could only laugh."

Elaborating on some of the president's dramatic policy changes, freshman Gigi Edwards expressed frustration with what she sees as a lack of education in many of Trump's supporters.

"I don't like to generalize, but I feel like a lot of his supporters are just taking his word and not seeing beyond that," she said.

"Even though they feel like they're very knowledgeable about certain topics, they're very close-minded about them. Trump and his supporters might claim to be concerned for our nation, and I think that they truly are, but they aren't going to the right places to try and fix it."

Edwards said that raising awareness through the marches is and will continue to be important to show that those who voted against the President still have a voice and will continue to push to fix things that the current administration won't address.

"Being college students, even though a lot of the time we're looked down upon by our elders, we still have a huge voice and we're still being very affected by this," she said. "A lot of people don't care about midterm elections, but in two years that's going to be a really big moment. That's going to help with blocking some things that shouldn't be going through and balancing the people that are in power."

Junior Jessa Wais, who participated in protests in D.C. that day, spoke about how Hopkins students are in the unique position to motivate social change during the new administration.

"As college students, there is no better time than now to be active in our communities. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the continuous cycle of disastrous news headlines, but it is also important to remember the power of organizing," Wais wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We live in proximity to Washington D.C. and Annapolis, and attend an institution that is a top employer in the state. As students, we have the power to make real changes that could improve real lives."



COURTESY OF EMMA ROALSVIG
Prof. Hickman deconstructs Marxist material to talk about race.

NEWS & FEATURES

Possible Humanities Center closure shelved

By ROLLIN HU

News & Features Editor

Following a six-month-long review of the Humanities Center (HC), Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Beverly Wendland announced that the University will not close the department.

This announcement came after a neutral committee headed by Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums Winston Tabb submitted a report that outlined three potential paths forward for the department.

Director of the HC Hent de Vries, along with several graduate students and other faculty who led the fight against the potential closure, released a statement praising the decision. They thanked those who have defended the department over the past months.

But while they appreciated the neutral committee's efforts, several HC graduate students have also voiced concern saying, that the decision should be treated cautiously.

The report includes several suggestions for the future of the HC, three options for moving forward and background on the controversy of the preceding months.

The suggestions include redefining the department's academic focus so that it does not overlap with other humanities departments, creating an undergraduate major and running the department more transparently and inclusively.

The report recommends that the two vacant faculty lines in the HC should be filled in accordance with the department's new objectives, which have yet to be determined.

In the report's first option for moving forward, the HC would retain its current name and pursue the changes described above.

In the second option, the HC would change its name to better reflect its academic mission of studying comparative literature and intellectual history. The report suggests possible names like the "Humanistic Studies Department" or "Comparative Critical Theories and Societies Department."

The final option would be to transform the HC into a department that focuses exclusively on comparative literature, which is currently one of the two tracks that graduate students in the Center may pursue.

At the end of the report, the neutral committee admits that implementing these suggestions will be difficult and acknowledges that the uncertainty surrounding the HC's future in the past months have "demoralized essentially the entire faculty." The report states that the HC could require another reassessment in the future.

Since the news of possible closure, graduate students have led several

demonstrations supporting the Center and accusing the administration of a lack of transparency. The report criticized the graduate students' actions, stating that they "harmed their own reputations and that of the university."

Specifically, the report discounted the fears and allegations that humanities as a whole were under attack at the University, calling this understanding to be "misled" and "alarmist."

The report argued that Wendland has supported the humanities at Hopkins in the past and that the administration holds no vendetta against the humanities.

Omid Mehrgan, a graduate student in the Center, disagreed with this assessment, saying that students had good reason to be worried about the state of the humanities at Hopkins.

"That connection was made in part [between the HC and humanities in general] because as the report itself confesses, there have been cases in Britain and in the U.S. where humanities institutions were abruptly shut down," he said. "The report itself provides a reason for why students should feel concerned and anxious."

Michael McCreary, another HC graduate student, explained how it was the language of Wendland's original memo issued last June, which seemed to threaten the closure of the department, that prompted a sense of urgency and anxiety.

"I'm not sure if the administration fully considered the effects of their language and that possibility on the effect of the graduate student body, because we did take it as an existential threat," he said. "I was kind of surprised that the administration was surprised that we were organizing."

Looking towards the future, both McCreary and Mehrgan say that there is still worrying uncertainty.

"The language of the report is still ambiguous," Mehrgan said. "It seems that many things will depend on what will come next. The Dean has yet to decide on what the path forward should be... This might still be a bit early to comment."

McCreary, who just finished his first semester as a Ph.D. student, spoke about his experience arriving at the HC in the midst of this controversy.

"I haven't been fully convinced that the administration is completely supportive of my department because my main interactions with them so far have been trying to justify why the department should exist," he said. "I'm very happy the review process has suggested that we shouldn't close the department, so that inspires some faith in the administration."

New memes page pokes fun at Hopkins life

By KATHERINE

LOGAN

Staff Writer

With over 4,000 members, the Facebook group "Hopkins Memes for My Lost Hopes and Dreams" serves as an online destination for students to post Hopkins-related memes.

Since late December, the page has been the location of commiseration and school pride, with students even fighting in a "meme war" against a similar page from the Washington University in St. Louis.

Yet given the group's size, differing opinions have emerged regarding what content is humorous in contrast to what is offensive and should be banned from the page.

According to Hopkins Junior Ashutosh Jindal, a co-administrator on the page, the idea for the Facebook group came out of a conversation between fellow juniors and co-administrators Rachael Ladele and Sherry Chiu.

Ladele described watching the number of members multiply overnight.

"It was something Sherry and I thought was just going to be us and a few of our friends, but by the first night we were at 200 members, then almost 700, then 1,200," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Freshman John Moore feels that the group has created an environment where students can bond over common struggles faced at Hopkins.

"I think it really builds a community. The group provides a platform where students can humorously and often satirically com-

miserate about all the shared obstacles at Hopkins," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Also it's good fun to see all the ways in which Ronnie D can be photoshopped."

On the other hand, Sophomore Michael Feder shared in an email to *The News-Letter* that he feels the negativity found in some of the memes on the page belittles rather than fosters student pride.

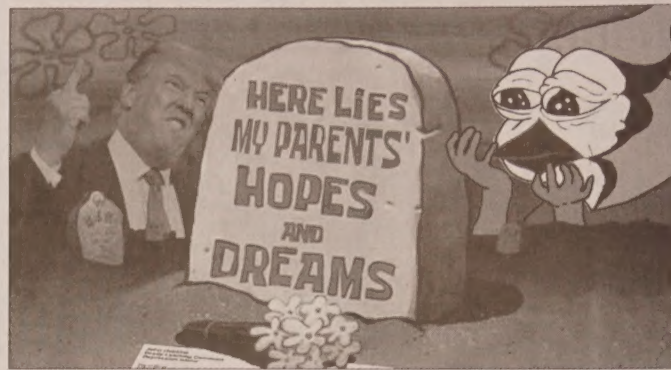
"I would say that it's a blow to school spirit, if there was any school spirit in the first place," Feder wrote. "That being said, I don't think there's anything else more 'Hopkins' than kvetching about

Hopkins. In that sense, the memes page is the most spirited addition to student life since that god awful statue outside the FFC."

Junior Freddie McCall, who is not a member of the group, explained that he did not like how the memes focused on the University's high stress levels and intense workload.

"I think Hopkins humor revolves too much around work-hard mentality, and that gets old really quickly," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Memes are just a way to procrastinate and have low-level stimulation, like all of social media."

The page has not existed without controversy.



COURTESY OF ALLAN WANG AND ASHUTOSH JINDAL

The cover photo of the Facebook group, "Hopkins Memes for My Lost Hopes and Dreams."

"It's good fun to see all the ways in which Ronnie D can be photoshopped."

— FRESHMAN
JOHN MOORE

Bloomberg professors condemn immigration ban

By ALLY HARDEBECK

For *The News-Letter*

Twenty-six faculty from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health wrote a letter to President Trump urging him not to sign an executive order severely restricting the United States refugee program. Hours after the letter's publication, Trump officially signed the executive order, which bans travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries and indefinitely bans Syrian refugees.

As the director of the Program on Human Rights Health and Conflict and signatory of the letter, Len Rubenstein played an integral role in gathering Bloomberg faculty across different disciplines to draft the letter. He considers speaking out against policies that attack human rights to be an integral part of being an academic or a medical professional.

"It can have a major impact on the realization of human rights when [academics and healthcare professionals] get involved. Particularly through both the knowledge that they can bring through evidence-based findings and the use of their voice," Rubenstein said.

The three page letter stresses the public health impact of ignoring refu-

gees, citing research conducted by many of the signatories.

It also explains that refugees do not pose a threat to the U.S., but add value to our communities. Bloomberg is home to the Center for Humanitarian Health, which conducts research on the health of refugees across the world, including Syria, Lebanon and Somalia.

Dr. Stefan Baral, another signatory of the letter, directs the Key Populations program at Bloomberg. Baral agreed with Rubenstein, and explained that they had a duty as academics to act.

"The genesis of the letter was to say that there's no evidence supporting this particular policy initiative," he said.

Dr. Paul Spiegel, director of Bloomberg's Center for Humanitarian Health and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, reaffirmed the need to advocate for refugees and ensure that people are well informed.

"Our role as academics, even if some don't wish to hear the facts or wish to gloss over them, is to make it very clear that here are the facts, here is the evidence," he said. "We've worked with these people, and we know the heartache and the suffering."

The executive order

raises questions about the future of one of Bloomberg's initiatives to provide full-tuition scholarships for two Syrian health care workers so that they can complete the school's 11-month master's program. With the current ban on Syrian refugees, the ability of the selected students to enter the U.S. remains unclear.

Many students have welcomed the letter against the executive order. Junior Samantha Igo, who recently returned from an alternative break program focusing on immigrant and refugee rights, was pleased that the Bloomberg professors took a strong stance on the issue.

"I feel like Hopkins has not always been the most proactive with a lot of social issues, so it's nice to see that they're reacting," she said. "When they put their weight behind something I feel like a lot of people will follow suit."

Freshman Evan Druker-Schardl, another participant in the immigrant and refugee rights program, agrees with the letter's public health focus when discussing the refugee crisis.

"A bunch of public health and medical professors pointing out... the complexity of the human rights situation in IDP

camp, refugee camps and war-torn countries like Syria and South Sudan. It's not just people suffering," he said. "There's the potential for widespread public health problems."

Igo also believes that informing people about the refugee crisis could lead to more effective policy initiatives.

"I want organizations like the International Rescue Committee to change the narrative of refugees and educate the public. I feel like so many people have uneducated opinions about it because they don't understand the vetting process or how long it takes to get a visa," Igo said.

Despite the lack of compassion for refugees in the executive order, Spiegel remains optimistic.

"One of the things that's very heartening is the amount of individual and community activism that is responding to this," he said. "If you have to look for something good in a bad situation, if these sort of executive orders that are discriminatory and possibly unconstitutional are able to actually activate the American people in such a way that they haven't be activated in a long time, then that's a wonderful thing."



FILE PHOTO

Dean Wendland announced the Humanities Center will not be closed.

NEWS & FEATURES

Baltimoreans protest Trump's new policies

By KAREN WANG
Staff Writer

A protest against President Trump's recent executive orders was held on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Edward A. Garmatz United States Courthouse. A couple hundred protesters gathered in front of the Thurgood Marshall statue and then marched along Hopkins Place and W. Lombard St. towards the Inner Harbor.

Since he assumed the presidency, Trump has issued a slew of executive orders ranging from banning travel from seven Muslim majority countries to rolling back the Affordable Care Act.

They held signs and chanted as they marched. Some said "Big Oil Out of Native Land! No to DAPL!" while others, who are members of the Communist Workers World Party, said "Fight Trump! No Racism, No Sexism, No Capitalism" and "Fight for Socialism."

The Baltimore County Green Party also passed out flyers during the protest.

Nina Grossman, a PhD student at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, was specifically protesting Trump's executive order that indefinitely suspends Syrian refugees and bans travel to seven majority Muslim countries. She was also protesting policies against undocumented immigration.

"I'm really scared and disappointed in the executive actions that President Trump has enacted," Grossman said. "I just thought that it's my role to stand up for people who have fewer rights under this administration and whose lives are at stake."

Grossman went on to explain some of the misconceptions people hold about Muslim immigrants and refugees.

"I think there's been a lot of falsehood about immigrants who are screened to make people afraid of them and make them feel that they're a threat, when there's really no evidence that that's the case," she said. "Most terrorism in the United States is actually perpetrated by far-right organizations and individuals and not Muslims or immigrants."

She also reflected on the negative effects the executive order will have on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This was a policy enacted under President Obama's administration that allowed more leniency in immigrant deportation.

"I think a lot of people who got the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals are really scared right now," Grossman said.

Laura Brown, an advocate for LGBT+ rights and the removal of the Dakota Access pipeline, felt she had a responsibility to attend the protest.

"I'm mainly here for the new orders on the DAPL because a lot of my friends are Native American and they're personally upset about it, so I feel like I should come here and represent them,"

Brown said. "I hope to see less hate and less discrimination towards the LGBT+ community, and I definitely hope the DAPL laws are repealed."

The event also included speeches by protesters who felt that their rights and freedoms have been, or will be, attacked under President Trump's administration. One female protester shared her fears about the future under a Trump presidency.

"I feel like we had somebody watching our backs with President Obama. He gave me my rights. I'm now able to be married to my wife, when I couldn't be before," she said. "But then we had this crazy man come in, and he's destroying America — he's making it into a fascist country. And so we stand here and fight and say, 'No! We want our democracy, and we want to be represented by people who care.'"

Another woman, who came from a family of black Republican Trump supporters, emphasized the importance of being aware of the facts and not the "alternative facts," a phrase used by Kellyanne Con-

way who is a counselor to President Trump.

"I'm here right now for the blacks, the gays, the whites, the trans, the he, she, they, the them. I don't really care about your fake news or your alternative facts. I'm here for the real facts," she said.

She also called on people to tell anyone they know who voted for Trump that they stood up for something that was racist.

A woman who was concerned about public school funding urged people to get involved at the local level.

"This is a fact. Baltimore City schools have a 130 million dollar deficit. Where did the money go?" she said. "Baltimore City's tax base is richer than it's ever been. Right now we're thinking globally, I need you all to act locally. Please support the Baltimore City public schools and support the children of Baltimore."

The last speaker, a Native American woman, asked the crowd to educate themselves on Native American history.

"I need you to know that everyone needs to be against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Support those protestors and the water protectors," she said. "The U.S. government doesn't want you to know that we are around or know our history or our rights. That means you need to learn about it yourself."

She urged people to educate themselves about Native American history so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

"If you don't know our history, our rights, our unique system of government and about how our tribes are all different, all of this is going to repeat, our rights will be taken away and our environment will just go down the sh*tter," she said. "Keep fighting, because this is far from over."

Former senator Barbara Mikulski joins faculty



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Senator Barbara Mikulski.

By SIRI TUMMALA
Staff Writer

Baltimore native Barbara Mikulski joined the U.S. Senate for the Democratic Party in 1976 and went on to become the longest-serving woman in Congressional history. She is also the longest-serving Maryland Senator.

As of this spring semester, she joined the Hopkins faculty as a professor of public policy and advisor to the University's president. She will be based in the department of political science.

Mikulski described what motivated her to join the University.

"Hopkins is a wonderful institution that has a big impact in our community in all of its campuses," Mikulski said. "It educates people to be leaders in our own country and around the world. I thought, 'What a cool place to be able to be very local, national and international.' I am looking forward to interacting with the students and faculty to see how I can pass it on."

Mikulski explained her role when she served as a senator, as well as the goals she had during the terms she served.

"My job as a senator was to look out for the day to day needs of my constituents to see how that affected national policy,

and where I could be a champion for the people," said Mikulski. "And then by tradition, things like constituent services were part of it: when someone needed help with a veteran's disability, needed help with immigration problems and getting bogged down with the Federal Bureaucracy."

Prior to joining the Hopkins faculty, she fought for science, technology and innovation on the congressional level.

"I was deeply committed to an innovation agenda in science and technology by making sure that we would be advocating for those who had been left out," Mikulski said. "For them to have jobs or to benefit from public policy."

She also remarked on how a Donald Trump presidency could potentially affect politics as a whole.

"Whether Trump is president or not, we would still have big issues. But in the atmosphere of Trump, what we all need to stand up for is truth," she said. "We need to make sure there are avenues even though there is misinformation coming from the highest of sources. We need to not only speak truth but we need to also make sure there is truth in our people."

Mikulski went on to commend the organizers of the numerous marches and protests that have occurred in the days following President Trump's election and inauguration.

"People are very good at organizing the marches and the protests. I think that is absolutely important as we need to give this ability to our concerns, which is great," she said. "But I think with every outcry, we need a strategy leading to our outcome... I

think it's very important that you know how power functions in our government and country as well as how you can use those to advance change."

Mikulski reflected on her current standing as the longest-serving woman in Congress.

"For me, it wasn't how long I served. Longevity is a nice metric, but it's really how well you served," she said. "I was honored to be the longest-serving woman in Congressional history, but for me the honor also was to really see the big changes that came to women in American politics and how I could help add to the women holding elected office — helping people get elected and increasing the numbers."

Mikulski also gave some advice for girls aspiring to follow in her footsteps.

"Get involved in your local community. Begin to learn the leadership skills, the needs of people and the building of coalitions. Start at the local level," she said. "For me, my background is that of a social worker, so I never thought I would go into politics."

Despite the challenges she faced managing a career in politics, Mikulski said that her love for social justice work motivated her to continue working.

"When I got started, women in politics were a novelty. Politics was dominated by potbelly guys," Mikulski said. "But for me it was being a social worker and then being an activist in the fight against a high-way and being in the civil rights movement of my time. That passion and that participation took me into politics."

Mikulski's specific role at Hopkins has not been determined yet.

"I am based here at

Homewood at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. I am in the Political Science Department. We are working out now if I am going to co-teach with credentialed professors or if I am going to guest lecture across the departments," she said. "So we are learning all that now, and this first semester is a work in progress."

She said that her favorite parts of being at Hopkins so far have been her encounters and interactions with students.

"Already just walking around campus or having a coffee in Gilman Hall and spontaneously interacting with students, I am so impressed by their dedication to make a difference in terms of the desire to work for Baltimore being a better place and also issues involving global warming," she said.

Furthermore, Mikulski explained what she hopes to bring to Hopkins.

"Service is in my DNA, and I look forward to be of service to the students and to the University, to bring what knowledge I know to work continually for the greater good," she said.

Mikulski also believes that the younger generations will continue the work that she and her colleagues have done in politics and believes in them to carry on the legacy of change and movement toward an even better future.

"Because you are the new people of the century, we are counting on you to really be able to know this," she said. "There continues to be this persistent problem of racism, sexism and the marginalization of people. It is these enduring problems that I am going to pass on what I know, so that you all with your fresh thinking and idealism will really help move this forward."

Anthropology journal fosters cultural thinking

By MORGAN OME
Layout Editor

In December 2016, junior Christian Cholish and senior Nadya Kronis relaunched *Argot*, an undergraduate anthropological research journal which examines the role of anthropology in relation to the humanities and other sciences across various mediums. Cholish and Kronis, who are both anthropology majors, serve as co-editors of the journal.

Argot was originally established in 2007, but publication ceased after the distribution of one issue. In January 2016, Kronis and Cholish revived the journal with a Fall/Winter issue. At the end of the year, they bought a new domain name, redesigned the website and officially rebooted *Argot* with two major deviations from the 2007 version.

The first change is that they will no longer publish seasonal issues. Instead, they aim to publish two or three pieces each month. The second change is that they accept multimedia and interdisciplinary submissions in addition to traditional research projects. Submissions can include anything from films and photographs to poems and essays.

Cholish and Kronis decided to expand the types of pieces *Argot* publishes in order to make anthro-

pology approachable to a wider audience.

"People really don't know what anthropology is or why it's relevant," Cholish said. "Anthropology is about being in the world. We're trying to make *Argot* not so scholarly and out of touch and erudite."

Kronis broadly defined anthropology as the study of human culture.

"We encourage submissions that are relevant to culture whether that is culture in the U.S. or culture abroad," Kronis said.

The journal's name is taken from the French word, *argot*, which means the language used by a particular type or group of people. Cholish related the title to the focus of their publication.

"Traditionally in French [the word *argot*] came out of this idea of a specialized language that people have to communicate with each other and keep out outsiders," Cholish said. "It's not so much about infiltrating and figuring it out as it is about how to translate or listen to people or communicate. [Argot] is all about sharing ideas and connecting each other."

Kronis sees potential for *Argot* to focus on more than just anthropological research in the future.

"[We] hope to create a real digital journal for the humanities on campus that's undergraduate and



COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN CHOLISH
Founders Cholish and Kronis created a logo for the rebooted journal.

relatively rigorous but represents a diversity of work and discipline," she said.

Several anthropology students have already submitted work to *Argot*. Senior Evan Kim published a photo essay in *Argot*'s December issue depicting life in Tokyo, Japan and Chiapas, Mexico. One picture entitled "Luxury Kimonos at Department Store" shows several women, dressed in colorful kimonos, shopping.

"It's not uncommon to see women wearing traditional clothing on the subways or walking around, but having the juxtaposition between something very modern that we conceive as Western, like department stores and having something traditionally Eastern with authentic clothing, was interesting," he said.

Kim believes that all students can learn from the field of anthropology.

"If you're confused or anxious about life, take an

anthropology class," he said. "It's extremely beneficial. It makes you think about things with different perspectives. It's hard, but it's healthy in the end."

Junior Robert Lee, an anthropology and political science double major, submitted a reflection on city parks in Germany based on his study abroad experience in Berlin.

Lee values anthropology for being a subject that connects the humanities and social sciences.

"The textbook definition [of anthropology] — which is kind of problematic by most people — is studying other cultures," he said. "There is this implicit underlying idea that you go to some indigenous tribe and study them, which sounds colonial and weird and problematic. I think anthropology, for me, is attuning yourself to a different mode, a different temporality, a different conception of life."

NEWS & FEATURES

In his own words: Javad Fotouhi's story



COURTESY OF JAVAD FOTOUHI

Javad Fotouhi and his wife were detained at the Dulles airport for four hours on Saturday.

FOTOUHI, FROM A1

That was when we were really scared, because any second they might ask us also to leave the plane.

The plane departed; It was a 12-hour-long flight. We were worried still, but we were happy that we boarded the plane. We read on the news right before we boarded that only Turkish Airlines that was allowing Iranians to board.

When I left the U.S., the president was still President Obama. Seeing what President Trump had said before about the Muslim ban, I never thought it would happen this quick.

He signed the executive order Friday, exactly seven days after he got into office, and I flew a few hours after that.

We weren't just scared. We started really being disappointed, sad, and hopeless. My wife and I started to panic a little.

When you are waiting, time passes very slowly. We didn't know anything, we didn't know our rights, what would happen to us. We felt powerless. Those ten hours were the worst ten hours of my life.

It was very sad because we thought during the past few years of our life we had worked for it.

I'm a full-time student, I am halfway through my Ph.D. My wife worked very hard to get her position and she is very happy with her job. We have a home; We have friends; We have family; We are emotionally attached to here. Here is home for us.

The background check we go through, it's the most intense, thorough background check that anyone can go through. For me it took seven months just to do my background check. They took every kind of information from me, and it felt okay. We got the green card, we can move to this country and be happy.

Because as Iranians, for us getting visas is difficult. Whichever country we want to go, it's difficult. We thought that we were coming to the U.S. My wife has had a green card for 27 years. Her family lives here. I can start school here. We can start our life here. We never thought that we had to worry about this ever again, which was wrong.

Earlier, I mentioned the spreadsheet, and on that spreadsheet, people who were green card holders were writing their experiences. On Saturday the 28th, after the press conference where they said green card holders would be banned, not a single green card holder was allowed to enter the U.S.

One hour before we arrived at Dulles, I checked the internet and saw the news that said green card holders were being checked, case by case. We were not a bad case, so we had some hope.

When the flight landed, we started panicking because now we were going to see the officers. You don't know what's going to happen. And I could see it in every other Iranian's face that was on that flight.

When we saw the customs officer, his first sentence was, "Have you heard of the new executive order that President Trump has signed?"

We said, "Yes." Then he said, "You should know that you will spend time with us tonight."

He wrote a big capital "R" on each of our green card tickets. We didn't know what that meant. Reject? Retain? We didn't know. So we said, "What should we do now?"

He said, "Go take your luggage."

I said, "What should we do after that?"

He said, "Sir, I told you: Go. Take. Your. Luggage."

My wife asked a question; I don't remember what she asked. The officer said, "Ma'am, you are Iranian, okay?"

We went to the baggage claim and got our luggage. Then you normally go through another checkpoint to show them the customs form. The officer saw our Iranian passport.

He said, "Okay, come to that room."

There was a big room, a big area, on the right side of that final security check. There they said, "Put your luggage here. Give me your documents. And sit here."

There were 20 or 30 officers there. One of them called my wife's name. My wife told him, "I'm with my husband, can we come together?"

He said, "Okay, come together."

And then he started questioning and interviewing us. Questions like, "Who are you?" and "What do you do?"

Then he started asking, "How many days were you in Iran?" "What was the purpose of your trip?" "Who did you visit?" He got the address of my parents house and said, "Who else did you visit?"

My wife said, "We visited my grandma."

He said "Okay, give me your grandma's home address."

It was funny, I don't know how my 80-year-old grandma's home address could help them. For every answer I gave them, they asked a new question based on my answer.

Then we asked him what's next. He said, "I will take this information back, and I will let

you know. We will call your name. You should go sit."

In that area, there were maybe 30 or 40 mostly Iranians. There were a few from other countries. Some Iraq, some India, maybe Syria. But Moroccans and Indians, I saw them.

We sat there. They didn't let us talk to each other even though we were sitting close to each other. Two of the people tried to talk to each other, and officers shouted at them, "You are not allowed to talk. Don't talk to each other."

We were very scared at that time. The only good thing was that my friends were communicating with me.

Even though it was a no-phone area, I was still texting my friends who were outside. They were telling me what was going on outside the airport and how many people were there.

We heard that some people were given a form called I-407, where you voluntarily give back all your rights as a green card holder. My friends warned me to never sign such a thing. They said, if they gave you anything to sign call us immediately and that lawyers were waiting outside here to accept your case for free.

I mean when you hear such a story, you can't sleep. You can't eat in the plane. You don't really want to do anything. You just want time to pass. You want to get to the end of it.

So after three hours or so, they started calling the dual citizens who also had Iranian citizenship.

After that, they handcuffed an Iranian visa holder who didn't speak English. I heard the officers shouting at him. Maybe he refused to sign the form. There were four officers who took that guy. That's what I saw with my own eyes. I saw that my wife was shaking.

You could see no emotions in the officer's faces. The ones who were asking questions, I couldn't see any emotion in their face, not happy, nor sad. It's like it was something ordinary for them, and to my surprise, they looked like immigrants, too.

After four hours, at around 10:30 p.m., they started calling the names of the people that were sitting there.

They called our names. Then immediately my wife got her green card and passport from them. She started collapsing, so I had to hold her.

Suddenly we saw all the people who were waiting for us. To my surprise, most of them were even Americans — not even the ones who were affected by this, but the ones who felt the responsibility to come.

It was very emotional

and heartwarming for us to see, the rows shouting, "Welcome home." I could see people we didn't even know who were crying.

I want to say that the first two people I hugged, who are both my friends, one of them is Christian, the other is Jewish. They were the ones who welcomed me, me, as the Iranian.

That was very touching for me, that it was not about religion, it was about us as humans.

We are concerned about the safety of this country as much as Americans are concerned about the safety of this country. We are emotionally attached to this place because this is our home, and they weren't going to let us in.

Working hard for so many years and seeing that everything is disappearing, going to zero, becoming nothing, that broke our heart.

I've realized how many good friends I have here. When I landed, when my phone started working again, I got more than a hundred messages from friends. My friends were helping me everywhere, in every way.

I can't say how much my family was concerned. My brothers were worried, my sister, my dad, my mom, all my cousins. They couldn't sleep until they heard the news that I was back safe. And I realize how thankful I am for what I have, for the people around me, for my situation here now, for being safe at home.

One person in power making an ill-considered decision can affect many people. There are over one million Iranians living in the U.S., many of whom are talented people, students, who have good jobs. Most of them are successful here.

What I went through cannot be compared to what my friends will go through. The ones who are on student visas, who are on single-entry U.S. visas — these are talented people, they come from the best universities in Iran. They are banned from going outside of the country because they can't come back in. They are leaving at the cost of not seeing their family.

I've heard that all the prospective Iranian students applying for schools in the U.S. might be rejected blindly, without reviewing their applications. If the University believes that these are good students, they should consider reviewing their applications. The University should stand behind their backs and support those students.

The decision that can affect all of us, change our lives, traumatizes us. How can I be happy? It disappears.

About my future, I feel insecure because I feel this is the beginning.

I cannot live as a person who is not allowed to see his parents. My parents are 60-something years old. If, God forbid, something happens to them, I want to be able to go back and see them. And I'd like for them to see me. And I'd like to see my brothers who live in Europe. I'd like to go see my sister and her children. I don't want to be imprisoned here. I want to have the freedom."

Immigration ban jolts Hopkins community

BAN, FROM A1

Values that lie, too, at the core of this country's great universities," Daniels wrote. "The human impact of such an assault on these core values was immediate, including at Johns Hopkins."

In his letter, Daniels related the personal story of how his father, a Polish Jew, fled to Canada and escaped the Holocaust. Daniels emphasized the importance of offering refuge and opportunity to millions of people fleeing persecution and bloodshed.

He wrote that Hopkins will "strongly support the members of our community who need our direct assistance in the days and months ahead."

On Wednesday night, the Office of International Services (OIS) held an information session about how the order will impact students. In a packed Mason Hall auditorium, students were able to speak with OIS representatives and a lawyer about their respective situations.

Personally affected

Omid Mehrgan is an Iranian graduate student currently living in the U.S. on a student visa. Mehrgan described the order as hastily composed, and worries of what it may mean for those affected.

"I feel targeted because, as I said before, the arbitrary nature of the order can set the stage and the tone for unpredictable future forms of assault," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I think it serves other purposes disguised as safety measures."

Mehrgan, however, is hopeful as demonstrations and protests are held across the country to demand the ban's removal.

"[I]n light of the demonstrations all over the US in the past days, I find it so reassuring to observe that the executive order in fact triggered more solidarity than the divisiveness in whose spirit it was composed," he wrote.

Junior Darius Mostaghimi is half Iranian. Both of his parents were naturalized as U.S. citizens and he was born here. But, Mostaghimi still has family in Iran, and he is worried about when he will be able to see them again.

"The executive order represents an idea that says being an American and being of Persian heritage are irreconcilable. However, I never saw it that way and a lot of people don't see it that way," he said. "We see America classically as a melting pot in which people of different cultures come together through the gift of America's open borders."

Mostaghimi said that after Trump was elected, he felt unwanted in the U.S. For him, the executive order was a sobering moment, as he realized that Trump planned to

carry out much of what he had promised on the campaign trail.

"For me, the pit was after he did the executive order," he said. "That's when I felt angry, a little hopeless. But after that wore off, I felt resistant."

"Respect existence or expect resistance"

Over 2,000 protesters, including dozens of Hopkins students, occupied the International Arrivals terminal at BWI Airport for hours on Sunday, Jan. 29.

There were no reports of detentions at BWI, but lawyers at the demonstration were on hand to provide free legal help to future arrivals and the protesters. Each time an international flight arrived, the crowd cheered, and several passengers cheered with them.

A man in a Trump hat shook his head and smirked as protesters heckled him. Local politicians, including former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Representative Elijah Cummings, supported the protesters in the terminal.

The demonstrators shouted "No hate, no fear. Refugees are welcome here!" and adapted Ludacris' song "Move B*tch," chanting "Move Trump! Get out the way, get out the way, get out the way."

For junior Zaya Amgaabaatar, the United States' history of immigration is part of what makes it great. She attended the protest to both denounce Trump and support those that he "harmed, disenfranchised, endangered and targeted."

"My parents and I immigrated here from Mongolia, and so it's hard for me to imagine the U.S. as something other than a haven for immigrants," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Senior Andy Ingersoll condemned Trump for ignoring the plight of millions of refugees fleeing the Syrian Civil War.

"I went to the protest at BWI because Trump's ban is immoral, illegal and dangerous," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The people that Trump's EO keeps out are not terrorists, but many are fleeing terror — some are refugees, who have waited months or sometimes years to be cleared by our (already extensive) vetting process, while others are military translators, who risked their lives fighting for American interests in Iraq."

Ingersoll wanted to remind Trump that because he lost the popular vote, his actions don't have the approval of the majority of Americans.

"I also hope that the recent protests demonstrate to Trump that the public will not be politically apathetic and will continue to oppose his racist 'America First' rhetoric," he wrote.



COURTESY OF WILL ANDERSON

Protestors at BWI stood with those affected by Trump's travel ban.

WOMEN'S MARCH



COURTESY OF MIKA INADOMI
Inadomi marched in D.C. in hopes that it would change Trump's actions.

Mika Inadomi, Sophomore

Sophomore Mika Inadomi participated in the Women's March on Washington because she saw it as an opportunity to take part in social justice and feminist activism.

"I was inspired to go not only because of the election and the new Trump administration, but also because [the march] was trying to focus on women's rights in particular," Inadomi said.

As a political science major, Inadomi fears that the policies implemented by the Trump administration could jeopardize her plans to go into politics. She also fears the rights of women and other minority groups are in danger of being stripped away.

"It's been one day and [Trump has] already done so much stuff that is just terrible for everything the Obama administration has completed," Inadomi said. "Just seeing that he put a freeze on federal hiring, and seeing the people that he put into his cabinet... I am just really worried that he will accomplish a lot of things that they were talking about during the campaign."

Upon seeing the massive worldwide response to Trump's actions, Inadomi is hopeful that positive change can still take place.

"Seeing what he is doing in the news, on a daily basis, is very discouraging," she said. "But also seeing every single march — it's not even just the Women's March now. I'm constantly discouraged by Trump but encouraged by how people are reacting," she said.

Angie Walker, Sophomore

Sophomore Angie Walker attended the sister march in Baltimore. Local media reported that approximately 5,000 people attended the event in Baltimore. Walker said that she was not used to being around such large crowds and was amazed to see that such a broad group of people who shared her values.

"It was interesting being around so many people and then seeing that many people... all came together for a common goal, despite being so different," Walker said.

When asked what

her main motivation for marching was, Walker expressed concern that the Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare, would be repealed.

"Personally, I am on the ACA, and so is my family," she said. "So, to see that dissipate is sad, especially since women are taking the biggest hit."

While the march was in response to the inauguration, Walker said that it was not necessarily an all-out protest of Trump's presidency. She also brought up the historical context of the pro-



COURTESY OF ANGIE WALKER
Walker, whose family is on the ACA, marched in Baltimore with friends.

tests.

"I don't think it is particularly anti any politician, but rather pro-women and pro-equality," Walker said. "I know there were some

signs that were directly taken verbatim from the 1917 [women's suffrage] protest, so we've been fighting for the same things for the past 100 years."



COURTESY OF ISABEL EVANS
Evans felt inspired after participating in a sister march in Boston.

Isabel Evans, Senior

Senior Isabel Evans attended one of the sister marches in Boston, Mass. She explained that the march drew large crowds that filled much of the Boston Common, a central park downtown. Evans cited reproductive and women's rights as her primary motivations for attending the demonstration. She was moved by

the amount of solidarity that the Boston community displayed.

"Everyone who was there was so on the same page about it. Even if maybe their views didn't align, everyone was there to just be there," she said. "It was really wonderful to see all these people come together, and just the range of ages. It was

really empowering."

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren were among those who spoke at the march. Evans said she was happy to see that political representatives from her home state shared her values and were working to take action against Trump.

"I cried while [Warren] spoke," Evans said. "The people who represent [Massachusetts] really align with what I believe in, and I really believe that the people from Massachusetts who spoke are doing something. I think that that was really moving."

Evans went on to say that the march made her proud to be part of the Boston community and that she felt inspired by the power of many individuals coming together under a common cause. Approximately 175,000 people attended the Boston march.

"I felt a really strong connection to the city and to everyone around

me knowing that there were so many people around me who felt the same way," Evans said. "It was really wonderful to feel like we were making a difference. I didn't have a sign, I didn't have a hat. I was just standing there. But there were so many people that made that choice to be there and stand there, and that made such a difference."

The Women's March on Washington and its sister marches had a large social media presence. The hashtag "#whyImarched" trended on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. For Evans, the march was an opportunity to go beyond social media and to actively participate in the political discourse.

"Being able to get out of the social media sinkhole and be with real people who had similar feelings was really important," she said. "I think it is really important for people, especially of our generation, to remember to get off of our laptops and go do something."

Sam Dominguez, Freshman



COURTESY OF SAM DOMINGUEZ
Dominguez marched in D.C. with Hopkins freshman for women's rights.

Freshman Sam Dominguez attended the D.C. march with fellow Hopkins students. Like many

attendees, she faced logistical complications attending the march. She and her friends intended to take

the MARC train to D.C., but arrived at Penn Station to find the line wrapping around the building. Dominguez had to take an Uber to D.C., afraid she would be unable to board a train. Despite the difficult commute, Dominguez was happy to participate in the event.

"I feel like it was a really good chance to be part of something historical, something big," Dominguez said. "I was rooting for it so much that I thought we should just go. You don't think I'm an

individual person I'm going to make a big difference, but definitely seeing all the people there it took everyone making the decision to come to make it a big event."

Dominguez expressed that her primary motivation for attending the march was to support women's rights and reproductive rights.

"Every woman should have the right to do what they want with their body. I feel like we've come so far, it's scary to think we might regress," she said.

Mia Berman, Junior

Attendance at the D.C. march was much higher than expected and both organizers and attendees faced logistical problems during the event. Organizers unexpectedly altered the route of the march because of overflow in the designated area.

"It was definitely a little disorganized. I don't think they were prepared for how many people were there," junior Mia Berman said.

On the other hand, Berman observed that the march was inclusive of many different groups and helped raise awareness about a number of issues in addition to women's rights.

"While it's labeled the Women's March, some of the most often chanted things were things like 'immigrants are welcome here.' There were environmental groups," Berman

said. "There were so many other groups represented. It was a very intersectional march, and I was very happy about. It was nice to see."

While most attendees said the march was conservative, Berman said that some were critical of the approximately 53 percent of white women who voted for Trump.

"There was a sign that said white women voted for Trump, white women elected Trump," she said. "Many

people at the protest weren't the happiest about seeing that sign. But I think it's important for white women to realize that you can show up to the women's march and wear your pink hat and make a difference, but you don't actually make a difference if it ends there."

Berman emphasized

the responsibility of white women to stand up for other marginalized groups.

"You need to be participating in other marches, you need to be speaking up for other people," she said. "You can't just speak up when you are being attacked. You need to speak up when anyone's rights are being attacked."



COURTESY OF MIA BERMAN
Berman stressed that white women must stand up for other marginalized groups.



COURTESY OF ANTHONY BOUTROS
Boutros believes that the masses have the power to enact change.

Anthony Boutros, Freshman

Because people traveled from all over the country and the world to attend the march in D.C., freshman Anthony Boutros described the experience as empowering.

"I think it was a phenomenal time for people to get together, to feel empowered after... a long period of uncertainty about whether the very rights of certain people are going to be stripped away or undermined," he said. "It was just extraordinary to see the amount of solidarity that exists, the amount of support and compassion and the capacity for advocacy."

The march took place on the first day of Trump's presidency, but Boutros emphasized the

need for continued activism. He hopes that student groups on campus will continue to enact change by working within the Baltimore community.

"I think we are positioned at a unique place and a unique time to influence change locally," Boutros said. "By taking whatever actions are necessary proactively and consistently to make sure that our message is heard... we are not only preventing the things that we want from being stripped away, we are also building on the progress we have made. We do not want to go back, so we are going to push to go forward, no matter how slowly."

NEWS & FEATURES

Pussy Riot member speaks out against Trump's presidency



ELLIE HALLENBORG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Nadya Tolokonnikova, an activist and member of anti-Putin punk group Pussy Riot, spoke in Shriver Hall.

Pussy Riot, from A1
was a sexist criticism.

"This word hysteria is often used for women," she said. "Every time women raise their voice and raise their hand and ask to protest, people say, 'Oh she just has hysterics.' That's what they're trying to say about us, about activists who try to de-naturalize what is going on."

The event opened with one of Pussy Riot's recent music videos, titled "Make America Great Again." The video was released prior to the 2016 elections and featured her visions of a Trump presidency, including the objectification of women.

"We wrote this song in April, and we shot this video on the first of May," she said. "I remember having conversations with my American co-operators, who said, 'It is too heavy. You are too radical. Just chill, chillax. It will not be that bad. We do not have any evidence so far on Trump's sexual harassment.'"

Though dubbed a "political fortune teller" by her co-operators after the infamous 2005 tapes featuring Trump and Billy

Bush were released, Tolokonnikova admitted she was initially stunned upon learning the election results.

"It felt like when you get drunk and had sex with your best friend, and the next morning you feel ashamed and you're trying not to look each other in the eyes and going 'It's okay,'" she said. "It was weird."

She was able to move beyond this initial reaction, however, by deciding to work harder on addressing political issues and keeping herself informed.

"I started to read books on political science, which I hadn't read for a long time," she said. "I used to go, 'Oh no, I'm too busy with my art.' But now it's not even a question of if you want to read it or not. It's a duty now."

A recurring topic in Tolokonnikova's speech

was how to cope with a Trump presidency and political oppression in general.

"The first thing is, don't panic," she said. "Even total disasters could teach you some important lessons. Yes, you're stuck with Trump and that does suck, but now is the time for radical political analyses."

Tolokonnikova emphasized that Trump's presidency can serve as a catalyst for greater change.

"Now we can take a closer look, and ask how it is possible that so many in our society are treated as disposables based on their class, sex and religion," she said.

She also emphasized the importance of focusing on marginalized groups targeted under a Trump presidency.

"A very good trick that helped me in prison was to think beyond

yourself," she said. "A lot of people would ask me: How would I survive a Trump presidency? I think this question is morally wrong at its core. Think about those who are most vulnerable, who are going to suffer most from Trump's presidency. Think about ways to help them, and you realize this will actually help you."

Discussing Trump's rise to power, Tolokonnikova blamed weak leadership in the Democratic party as well as Trump's strategy of adopting progressive ideas in an appeal to poorer, unemployed U.S. citizens.

"They take our language and our rhetoric and use it in their own goals," she said. "Trump is so brilliant at stealing back our words and our message. Now it's our turn to take back our words and take back our streets."

While she continuously made comparisons between Trump and Putin and their reliance upon nativism and populism, she commented on how the two leaders are not as similar as some perceive.

"People want to see a lot of similarities between

Russia

and the

U.S., and

Putin and

Trump, but in fact

they are

pretty different,"

she said.

"Trump is

inspired by

Putin, and he's

Putin's ally, but

he's different."

Her talk

was fol-

lowed by a half-hour question and answer session and a reception where she took photos with fans and signed autographs.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions without the presence of a moderator. Sophomore Danielle Yuhan, a graphic designer on the FAS marketing committee, felt that this was one of the features of the talk that set Tolokonnikova's apart from the average FAS speaker.

"It was actually her idea to do the question and answer in that style, because she wanted to hear questions directly from the people," Yuhan said. "A lot of speakers don't do that."

Attendees such as freshman Nicole Muehleisen felt that overall the event was unconventional.

"I didn't think she would answer questions for that long," she said. "But it was really nice how open she was to everything. I didn't know what to expect, but I liked her charisma and her attitude."

Freshman Preethi Gopal, who was not very familiar with Tolokonnikova's work, expressed surprise at her colloquial

way of speaking.

"The style was not what I was expecting," Gopal said. "She's very candid and spoke whatever came to her mind, which was cool. It didn't seem she had very much to hide which is different from the politics I have experienced before."

Yuhan felt that Tolokonnikova's appeal was rooted in her approachability.

"I feel like she's somebody who is really easy to talk to," she said. "I get that with other speakers it can be quite intimidating because you feel like there is a barrier between the both of you."

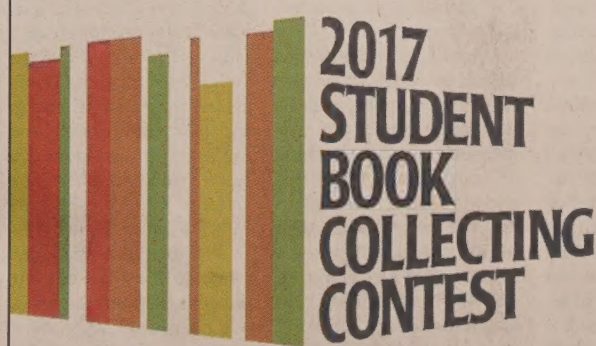
Yuhan said that Tolokonnikova's approachable nature and willingness to hear the opinions of others is what made her such a dynamic speaker.

"But she's somebody who is young like us Hopkins students so you could just go up to her and ask her questions and she knows what you're talking about," Yuhan said. "I think it's really great that she always wants to not only talk about herself but also hear about opinions and ideas from other people."



ELLIE HALLENBORG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Tolokonnikova spoke about social activism and feminism in light of Trump's presidency.



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VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Dear future historian: a letter of apology



Rollin Hu
Irrelevant History

Feb. 1, 2017
Day 12 of The Presidency

Dear Future Historian,

I suspect you will be reading this piece in the late 2090s after all the other historians have exhausted the rest of the primary sources pertaining to this era. So in a desperate attempt to get published you are going through this “unexplored gap” in the historical literature.

But all you are left with going through is the archives of Michael Bloomberg University (formally known as Johns Hopkins) and found some student newspapers stored on K-Level of the library.

The fact that you are even reading this is rather heartening. It means that artificial intelligence has not enslaved human civilization, that no meteor wiped us out like the dinosaurs and that most surprisingly, being a historian is still a viable profession.

And to answer the question that you came here to investigate, “Yes,

we’re sorry for screwing everything up.”

Originally I did not want to apologize. As the American songwriter, pianist and six-time Grammy winner, Billy Joel said, “We didn’t start the fire.” Systemic institutional racism? Not our fault, that was a legacy of slavery built by dead white people. Soul-sucking, dehumanizing meritocratic values that neglect the unrewarded efforts of everyday workers? Nope, wasn’t us, that was from the fetishization of capitalism by economic policymakers of the past.

But today we are in a situation that is so uniquely bad that we cannot pass on the blame to our forbearers. And this is not to dismiss our past trials of the recession of 2008 or going through 9/11. Today the existential threat to our environment, our values, our people is more palpable than it has been in my lifetime. So yeah, this is our bad. Sorry.

We knew there were going to be horrific consequences for our actions (or lack thereof). We have squandered a good portion of our time tagging

each other in memes on Facebook and bouncing around our coastal liberal elitist bubbles. And now we are left with all of... this.

We’re sorry that there is this weird remnant of a half-built wall in the middle of the desert down south. We’re sorry that there was this ridiculous Twitter account that dictated governmental policy for a while. We are sorry for earning the ire, scorn and pity of the rest of the world.

We’re sorry to the generations of humans fleeing violence and terror who were denied the opportunity to experience peace and hope. We’re sorry that we didn’t listen to the people who understandably demanded that their lives mattered when institutions shrouded their plight.

We’re sorry that we let individuals get lost in the mazes and loops and the bureaucracy of poverty while what little wealth they had trickled out to the feet of the rich. We’re sorry that the global average temperature will be four degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial revolution levels and we’re sorry to the fresh-

men living in AMR I and II who will still not have air conditioning. We’re sorry about New York City being swallowed by the ocean. And for Shanghai. And Bangkok. And the entire country of Bangladesh.

We’re sorry about the 40 hurricanes you’ll have in one year. We’re sorry about the strains of super antibiotic-resistant diseases. We’re sorry that you guys don’t have polar bears or coral reefs. They were pretty cool while they lasted.

And in all kidding aside, thank you, future historian, for doing this work. Maybe you will be able to inform society about our own failures and shortcomings so that maybe, just maybe, in the future, things will be better.

And to the people reading this today, please do something. If you have already done something, continue doing things. Call and petition your local government officials. Protest when your rights or the rights of others are taken away. Demand that facts, whether they are scientific or historical, are taken as what they are deemed to be: facts.

Make a movement of such significance that this letter will be cast aside as irrelevant by future historians.

Sincerely,
An irrelevant historian

Types of snow to wish for this year

Snow Flurry

This is the annoying type of snow, that just sort of hangs about. It’s not going to stick to the ground. It’s not going to cancel classes. It just looks pretty for the few minutes that it’s falling.

Snow Squall

This is the snow that only seems to fall when you’re in the 10th hour of your 11-hour car ride. It just shows up out of nowhere, reducing your visibility to basically zero and forcing you to crawl along so that the last 10 miles home take about three hours.

Snowburst

This type of snowfall also reduces visibility, but at least you actually get snow on the ground afterwards. Much as the name implies, these occur as quick little explosions that send school children running around in glee as they realize that they won’t have school the next day.

Blizzards

Commonly known as, “the weather event of canned goods companies’ dreams.” As people scramble to stock up on water, food and the other necessities of life, remember, you have the FFC for all your post-blizzard needs. (Be sure to thank the workers!)

Snowstorm

Though commonly mistaken for blizzards, they are in fact two different things. Blizzards must last at least three hours with strong winds that reduce visibility to less than a quarter mile. Snowstorms, however, just consist of a bunch of snow. It’s like all the fun of the snow day following the Blizzard but without the constant news cycle detailing our impending doom.

The story of Lia Lee: why empathy matters



Bessie Liu
Write Me

In *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman explores the story of Lia Lee and her family, who were among the 150,000 Hmong to flee their native land of Laos and eventually settle in Merced, Calif. It is a tale of the dangers of clashing perspectives.

Lia, who suffered from severe epilepsy, was constantly jostled by two conflicting forces. Her parents, deeply superstitious and adhering to Hmong traditional beliefs, believed that the hospital’s invasive procedures and medications were harming their daughter’s soul.

Lia’s epilepsy, called *qaug dab peg* in Hmong, is literally translated as “the spirit catches you and you fall down.” Her parents believed that as an infant, Lia’s soul had become lost once an evil spirit frightened it from her body and that her soullessness resulted in her symptoms. On the other hand, Lia’s doctors believed that her parents’ noncompliance with modern medical treatments and blind belief in outdated spiritual practices were putting Lia’s health increasingly in jeopardy.

Although both her parents and doctors want desperately for Lia to get better, their clashing beliefs and Lia’s subsequent deterioration highlight the dangers in not taking the

time to fully understand the opposite perspective. The Lees, who had originally consulted shamans to perform animal sacrifices in the hopes of healing their daughter, were considered “noncompliant” even though they couldn’t understand English, and the hospital couldn’t provide translators to help them consent to procedures.

Family is, moreover, an integral part of Hmong culture, and to Lia’s parents it seemed as if the doctors were trying to take custody of a member of their family when Lia was hospitalized.

Fadiman describes in sharp details the side effects of Lia’s medications but does so with the emotional distance of someone who has become numb to the cyclic process of treatment without healing, reflecting the family’s helplessness and anger.

The bigger issue, Fadiman points out, is simply the fact that not many people are familiar with Hmong culture in the first place. Chapters on the history of the Hmong as they fled Laos and settled in the United States are scattered throughout the book, detailing the violence that they frequently dealt with from inconsiderate Americans. Many people viewed the Hmong as simplistic, dirty and uncultured. Before reading this book, I hadn’t even heard of the Hmong before.

When reading this novel I found myself frequently questioning which side to support. Fadiman alternately paints both Lia’s parents and her doctors in a sympathetic light, as readers come to understand each party’s motivations despite each side’s not being able to understand the other. I thought this abil-

ity to evoke an emotional struggle in the reader, to truly feel the Lees’ indignation and confusion and the doctors’ frustration, is one of the book’s greatest strengths.

But Lia Lee’s story is ultimately one of tragedy and love. After she suffered a seizure that left her in a vegetative state, her family took care of her for almost the entire 30 years of her life with an uncommon devotion. The last lines of the novel, as Lia’s parents try to call her soul back one final time, are fitting. “Come home through this door / Come home to your family / Come home / Come home / Come home...”

In the afterword to the newest edition, Fadiman reveals the arduous research process she went through in writing this book. She spent years absorbing all the available literature and texts on the Hmong, tortured over the fact that her work would not be good enough and couldn’t possibly right all the wrongs that the American people had done to them.

Writing *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down* was truly a labor of love for her. In fact she refuses to update her book with information from newly

published textbooks on Hmong culture and history because she feels it would be an insult to the years she spent alongside the Lees, to the story she had promised to tell.

To consolidate the lesson she had gleaned from Lia’s story into one emphatic phrase, Fadiman arrives at the revelation that “empathy is so hard—harder than anger, harder than pity.” There is still much work to be done regarding fostering an attitude of “cultural humility,” as she calls it, among medical professionals, but Lia’s legacy has been remarkable.

In recent years, *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down* has become required reading at some medical schools. The medical community has begun to recognize the importance of tolerating other cultures and beliefs and not just considering, but prioritizing, them when treating patients.

Fadiman ends her journey with the Lees on an uplifting note, as she realizes that empathy is the common language that can unite doctor and patient, and by extension, any two groups of people who are otherwise separated by communication barriers.



OLIVER SPALT / CC BY-SA 2.5
In the culture of the Hmong people of Laos, family is very important.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Follow Daniels' example, reject Trump's ban

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 27 banning travel to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries. This ban came only a week after Trump took office, taking many immigrants, travelers, students and American citizens by surprise.

On Jan. 28, University President Ronald J. Daniels and Provost Sunil Kumar sent an email to the Hopkins community offering their support to those who might be affected by the travel ban. They scheduled information sessions on different Hopkins campuses to go over the details of the executive order and its impact, and they endorsed a statement by the Association of American Universities calling for the ban's end.

Yesterday, Daniels sent another email in which he personally condemned the ban. Daniels touched upon his own experience as an immigrant to the United States from Canada and shared the story of his father's family's immigration to Canada as Jewish refugees in 1939, only months before the Nazi invasion of Poland. He wrote that the University will unequivocally support members of the Hopkins family affected by the ban.

In these trying times, Daniels' words have reassured Hopkins students, faculty and staff that our University will not bow to pressure. The Editorial Board knows that Trump's ban violates the principles that both the United States and Hopkins hold dear.

We thank Daniels not only for sharing his story but also for taking a stance against the ban and its injustice. As the president of our University, Daniels has a responsibility to lead the Hopkins community by example, and he would have failed in his duty had he not spoken out. Students should pressure Daniels and the University to follow the impressive and lofty principles of his letter.

We all know that the brilliance of Johns Hopkins relies on its sizeable international community. The Editorial Board knows that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. The ban has threatened the students and faculty members that represent our diversity, the United States' reputation, and has needlessly divided us in a time when we must be united.

The News-Letter stands with those who have been affected by the travel ban and all those fighting it. We need you to keep protesting and making your

voices heard. This executive order could make the United States a center of Islamophobia and xenophobia, and we can't let that happen.

We commend the protesters who occupied BWI airport last weekend, showing support for immigrants and disdain for Trump's executive order. Many of the protesters wore the pink p'ssy hats, a visual marker from the Women's March, and the Editorial Board praises these people for keeping up their pledges to continue to stand up for human rights.

Similar protests occurred at international airports all over the country last weekend, as permanent residents, visa holders and tourists were barred from entering the United States. Seeing national solidarity reassures us that most Americans support refugees and rebuke Trump's vitriolic hatred.

The Editorial Board encourages students to remain vigilant. Trump won't change, and he won't back down easily. The protesters at the Women's March, at Black Lives Matter demonstrations and fighting for climate justice have given this Editorial Board hope. Throughout the next four years, we'll be out on the streets with you.

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Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at chiefs@jhnewsletter.com.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

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The Gatehouse

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acp

Mailing Address:
3400 N. Charles St.
Martin Center, Suite 131
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (410) 516-6000
Email: chiefs@jhnewsletter.com
Business Email: business@jhnewsletter.com

The fight for the Humanities Center isn't over

After a six-month-long review of the Humanities Center (HC), Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Beverly Wendland announced mid-January that the Center will remain open. The neutral committee tasked with reviewing the HC compiled a report detailing three potential alternatives.

According to the first option, the Center could retain its current name but create an undergraduate major and rework the department's academic focus. The second option would require the Center to change its name to better reflect its academic mission. Lastly, the Center could become exclusively a comparative literature department.

The Editorial Board's previous stance on the HC still stands, and we commend that the University's decision to not close the Center. But we

also recognize that the Humanities Center is far from out of the woods. The committee itself stated in the report that its recommendations will be difficult to implement and that the HC could face re-evaluation in the future.

The committee acknowledged that the months of uncertainty during the review had "essentially demoralized the entire faculty." After three reviews, and months of confusion and poor communication from the University, it's no surprise that the faculty and students are "demoralized." Threatening another review immediately is no way to rebuild trust between the administration and the HC.

The Editorial Board is taken aback by the committee's condemnation of protesters in the report. To anyone who has actively followed the HC story, it's clear that the protests

and continued pressure significantly affected the University's decision. If Dean Wendland had had her way, the Center would have closed. What other force could have pushed her to change her mind? It is grossly unfair and petty of the neutral committee to write that the protesters "harm[ed] their own reputations and that of the university."

Instead of fessing up to their clear loss, the University has blamed the students and faculty instead of its own poor decision-making for the continued mistrust.

The Editorial Board praises the protesters for fighting to save their institution and encourages them to keep fighting to maintain the Center's mission and purpose. There will surely be more battles to come, and the Editorial Board encourages all students to stand ready to continue the fight.

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

OPINIONS

Student groups should stop meeting, start doing

By TOMMY KOH

Let's meet to talk about that" seems to be the new get out of jail free card for those involved in administering student organizations. We must be wary of this phenomenon and take all necessary steps to defend against it. Meetings too often replace actual action with a trap of busywork, defined as work that usually appears productive or of intrinsic value but actually only keeps people occupied. Considering the extensive responsibilities some of our student leaders and administrators have, meeting may very well be a waste of time.

We have all been in this situation. I'm certain all of us have had multiple experiences walking out of a meeting wondering what we did for the past hour. We probably acknowledged that it was a waste of time and perhaps even made a commitment to be more productive moving forward. We might even have given ourselves excuses to justify the hours spent. Well, it was important for everyone to see each other. Really? Why? And even if that is true, why can't meetings be efficient, productive and focussed on deliverables?

A large problem is that time is spent on outlining actions rather than making decisions and actually doing things. For many who have multiple commitments and limited time, the time spent in meetings may well be all the time available for a specific organizational commitment. If I have an hour I could either spend the hour in a meeting talking about the work or I could spend 20 minutes actually doing work and perhaps some of the 40 remaining minutes communicating it to the team. In one case work gets done. In the other, it doesn't.

Let me be clear that this is not a battle cry against all meetings. There are moments where nothing can replace the rapport, relationship and common understanding one can establish in a face to face meeting. However, appealing to ambiguous notions of trust and familiarity is not sufficient to justify the time taken and in all likelihood wasted in meetings. Consider these two scenarios:

First, in a recent interaction with the office of Student Leadership and Involvement, I supported the creation of a new cultural organization on campus. While this was after the typical registration deadline, there were merits to officially recognizing such an organization for overseas outreach work. After email communication hit a wall, the relevant coordinator offered a meeting to talk about the process. We met.

I regret it. A productive meeting would have been to examine the process and find a way to meet the goals within existing limitations. Instead the meeting centered on the feelings of the coordinator who apparently felt we were looking at the wrong thing by challenging the process. Critical examination of existing systems is good leadership practice. Feelings cannot be a substitute to engagement with processes and systems to find efficient and effective outcomes.

Second, the last Multicultural Leadership Council General Body Meeting (GBM) of fall 2016 was rescheduled and subsequently cancelled. It was to be replaced with an informational email which, two months later, has still yet to arrive. Such GBMs are highly inefficient when the substantive information in a meeting can be conveyed via email (or, in this case, apparently not conveyed at all).

Beyond raising questions

about the utility of such organizational structures, it raises issues with how we find opportunities to build relationships. Many people may defend GBMs as opportunities to meet and get to know others, but the reality is that greater socialization happens when people gather for a social rather than administrative purpose. The need for social events does not justify the need for meetings.

Moreover, the offer of a meeting where things are "off the record" is too often used as a way to avoid making written commitments and being accountable for those commitments. The result? Business as usual. While the current state of affairs may justify existing structures and positions, business as usual comes at the cost of long term improvement. Within educational institution like ours, it also serves as a negative example for the next generation of leaders by normalizing self-interested behavior without emphasizing accountability or excellence.

How can we fix this broken state of affairs? A first step may be to just stop having meetings. Communicate via email, collaborate over Google Docs, call for a quick chat. All these options reduce inefficiencies. A second step is to minimize meeting times. There is often no reason why a meeting should last beyond an hour. Through it all, demand high standards of team accountability. Punctuality, clear communication, keeping promises, rejecting a culture of last minute changes: Such commitments improve organizational excellence and establish a feedback loop which reduces the need for meetings from the start.

As we start a new semester, embrace and enjoy the freedom of a schedule that does not and will not allow for distractions to meaningful progress, action and change. Every pair of hands can do great things in the 24 hours of each day and meetings must not take up blocks of time we cannot afford to waste. Cancel the meeting. Use email instead.

Tommy Koh is in the departments of political science and psychology with a minor in social policy. He is from Singapore.

Executive orders are a threat to democracy

By NICK EAGLE

America has endured little over a week of the new Trump Administration, and already there's a sense of commitment towards unconstitutional governance. President Trump, as of this past weekend, has issued 17 executive orders and memorandums with the goal of making good on many of his campaign pledges. The problem is that the vast majority of these orders are completely unconstitutional.

In fact there is nothing in the Constitution that gives the President the power to issue executive orders. All legislative actions must originate in the Congress and be signed by the President, then the executive branch must execute the law. In that sense executive orders are an efficient tool for the President to issue procedures of how the law will be followed to the departments and agencies working for the executive branch.

In the short amount of time that Trump has been President, his executive actions aim at tweaking, disregarding and creating policies not authorized by Congress.

For example one of the President's first actions was to direct agency heads to waive requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While this is mostly seen as a symbolic gesture, directing bodies of the executive branch to not faithfully execute laws is unconstitutional and unacceptable, regardless of a law's ineptitude.

When a President directly objects to following laws, Congress has the right and duty to hold the President accountable. If they fail in this regard, they are also violating their oath to preserve and protect the Constitution. Unfortunately, members of Congress are proving they have much more dedication to their parties and pockets than the Constitution.

While the ACA directive from Trump disregards current law, he's done much worse. He has also issued executive orders which prohibit federal dollars



KARL-LUDWIG POGGEMANN/CC BY 2.0
President Donald Trump signs a stack of executive orders on Inauguration Day.

We aren't necessarily afraid of a particular person being President; We are afraid of the power that they wield.

from going to overseas organizations that provide abortions and for executive agencies to start planning for his ill-conceived border wall with Mexico. The arguments for or against these policies are futile.

The real problem with these orders is that the President is directing how federal money is spent, which is a power that is solely allotted to Congress. Congress should be furious that an administration is forcefully allocating the power of the purse to themselves, but it's doubtful we will hear this spineless 114th Congress stand up for themselves or the Constitution they swore an allegiance to.

All of these decrees from President Trump beg the question... How did we get here? How have we gotten to a place where the executive branch has the power it does and is not aggressively challenged by the legislative or judicial branch? This overreaching from the executive branch is not something new under Trump.

We also allowed it under the Obama administration when he unilaterally changed immigration law regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We allowed it under the second Bush administration when he secretly issued an order allowing the National Security Agency (NSA) to monitor and eavesdrop on

any and all phone calls made by Americans. We've been allowing it for a long time; FDR issued nearly 4,000 executive orders during his historically long tenure as President.

With executive orders out of control, our adherence to checks and balances is severely threatened. We now have a precedent for presidents taking these actions, and there's no end in sight. This should frighten anyone who is fearful of any branch of government having too much power. This is more than an ideological or party-based concern.

Republicans cried foul over Obama's executive actions. Democrats are crying foul over Trump's executive actions. What hasn't broken through to the majority of Americans is that we aren't necessarily afraid of a particular person being President; We are afraid of the power that they wield.

Going forward there is not much we can do over the next two years. Not to be a downer, but the tables are set. The politicians are in place. As Americans, our number one goal when making our political choices in the 2018 mid-term election should be selecting individuals who will uphold constitutional governance over party preferences and demand that balance be restored to our republic. That's our responsibility as voters and American citizens.

Until then we must be vigilant in the powers exercised by all branches of government, but especially the executive branch, with which President Trump has already run amok.

Nick Eagle is a graduate student

Stay active and involved beyond calling yourself a feminist

By GILLIAN LELCHUK

As we enter the next four years of America, it seems like a lot of people are taking a greater interest in politics and activism than they previously had. Protests are popping up all over the place, from the Women's March to the anti-Muslim ban protests at international airports across the country.

As protesters we often embrace labels and symbols to help assert our beliefs, to align ourselves with our allies, to unite under a common goal. We call ourselves feminists, we shout that black lives matter, we carry rainbow flags. But calling ourselves feminists doesn't mean anything unless we back it up with our actions.

Taking on a label can often provide comfort and remind us that we're not alone. When millions of feminists around the world marched on Jan. 21, we knew we were not alone. When hundreds of other people around you are yelling the same phrase, "pro immigrant/queer/black/trans/indigenous/anything else lives," we know that we aren't the only ones with these beliefs.

Except until you take a step further, that's all they are, beliefs. Walking in a march and storming an airport are amazing ways to get involved, but that can't be the end for you or for me. Lending our bodies and our voices on one day should not be underestimated, but in order to effect real change, we need to stand up and speak out every single day.

I'm guilty of this too. I sat down. I joined 2,000 others at the Baltimore Women's March, and then I went to Chipotle. I bought my food and I went home and I prob-

ably watched something inconsequential on Netflix. There's nothing inherently wrong with that necessarily, because we are so much more than our labels of activism. I am a student. I am a young woman trying to take advantage of her parents' Netflix account. I am not a human rights lawyer or a full time activist or anything like that.

We just can't make every day like that. As long as we keep working, even in the smallest of ways, we can proudly stand together and proclaim that we are feminists, that black lives matter, that love is love.

So what can we do? What can we, students, workers, parents, children, actually accomplish? Honestly it's often easier than you think.

It can be as simple as staying informed. For example, let's talk about the pink knitted p'ssy hats you saw all over the place at the Women's March. On the surface they seem like a great way for us to unite as women, combat the perception of the color pink as weak and girly and reclaim a word often used as an insult. However, the word "p'ssy" refers to traditionally female genitalia, which alienates trans women and other people who identify as women but do not have a vagina.

Another easy way to affect

change is to call, email and send letters to your senators and representatives. Though they may not share your beliefs on a specific issue on which they're voting, they have an obligation to represent the views of their constituents. You might think you're just one person, but your phone call can make a huge difference.

The last piece I will impart on you is that sometimes your money goes farther than your mouth does. I know, I know, that was just so capitalist of me. But it's true. Even if it's not much, maybe think about setting aside a few dollars of each paycheck to send to an organization that has access to more resources and bigger people than you do. There are the big ones, like the ACLU and Planned Parenthood, but also think about looking into smaller, more local organizations that are impacting immediate change in your community.

Of course, keep protesting. Keep shouting. Keep embracing labels that bring you closer in your dissent. Just consider the things you can do to stay active and involved.

Gillian Lelchuk is a junior Writing Seminars and mathematics double major from Los Alamitos, Calif. She is the Opinions Editor.



COURTESY OF GILLIAN LELCHUK
Protesters gathered with signs at Baltimore's Women's March.

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THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 2, 2017



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YOUR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 2-5

Events in Baltimore Affordable, ethical food in nearby Remington this weekend

Thursday

Sarah van Gelder presents *The Revolution Where You Live*. Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Journalist Sarah van Gelder will be sharing stories of local activists from all over the country: from the ranches of Montana to Chicago and Detroit. Free.

Friday

The Devil Will Find Work For Idle Hands To Do, Atomic Books, 7 p.m.

Come and see an exhibition of needlework by Lynda Del Genis. The pieces are an expression of how she hears songs: music in colors and lyrics in fonts. If you hate The Smiths, you may not love this exhibition. There will also be a fire in the electric fireplace, as well as Charm City Meadworks beverages and giveaways. Free.

Save Your Soul with DJ Greg Cartwright, Lithuanian Hall, 9 p.m.—2 a.m.

Come dance the night away and drink cheap Lithuanian beer at the Lithuanian Hall this Friday! Expect to hear soul music both obscure and familiar on vintage vinyl. 21+, \$5.

Saturday

Ice Cream for Breakfast, The Charmery, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

'Tis the most delicious morning of the year! Head to the Charmery in your favorite pajamas for a special flavor lineup of breakfast ice creams. This year, the Charmery is partnering with Buddy's Coffee as well, so expect to be caffeinated. No admission fee but the food costs money.

MoonLIT: Women and Non-Binary Creators of Color Fest, 2640 Space, 5 p.m.—10 p.m.

This art fest will showcase and celebrate women and non-binary creators of color. It will feature 30 talented vendors, 10 poets and spoken word artists, four workshops, two panels, and more. \$5 donation which will go to the Baltimore Trans Alliance.

Sunday

Bioethics and Babies: A Samsara Talk-back!, Single Carrot Theatre, 4:30 p.m.

Join Single Carrot's players and guest panelists to discuss the art, science, and ethics of making babies in the modern world, inspired by Single Carrot's latest show, *Samsara*. Panelists include Travis Rieder, Leila Jamal, and Aaron Henkin.

\$22.

By HANNAH MELTON
For The News-Letter

Food insecurity is a real threat for many families in Baltimore. But at the corner of Sisson Street and W. 28th Street just off I-83, sits a little-known warehouse of social action. It houses three great entities: Mill Valley General Store, a bulk-buyer's paradise; Gather Baltimore, an organization providing affordable produce to residents; and The Baltimore Whiskey Company. We're going to focus on the first two.

Located in Remington at 2800 Sisson St., Mill Valley is about a mile from campus. While it is a little out of the way (it's certainly not Hampden), seeing a new bit of Baltimore makes Mill Valley even more worth the trip. The neighborhood is interesting and is very safe if you're with a friend.

Mill Valley's hours are limited, so plan accordingly if you hope to pick up that bulk dried mango. The store is a large warehouse with simple metal shelves that tower to the ceiling. They're stocked with everything from fancy soaps at low prices to Bob's Red Mill flours and peanut butter.

Mill Valley's fresh produce (quite affordable) is kept refrigerated on the right hand of the store. The open-floor concept makes it very easy to assess what you're working with in terms of inventory, which seems to be slightly different each week.

However, downstairs is where the real change is happening. While Mill Valley provides a rare service — bringing affordable, niche bulk food to a neighborhood that isn't teeming with yuppies yet — Gather Baltimore is more overt about their mission.

They want Baltimore residents to eat more fresh fruits and veggies at prices far below the Giant markup.

For a suggested donation of \$7 (or whatever they can pay), customers can buy an IKEA blue bag full of beautiful produce. As one Gather Baltimore patron said, "It's way too much food; I split it with my elderly neighbor because she has a hard time getting out to the shops."

Gather Baltimore started as an operation out of founder Arthur Gray Morgan's pickup truck. He worked at Hamilton Crop Circle, a Baltimore farm collective, and noticed that at the end of every farmer's market heaps of food would be left over either to be discarded or to be sold very cheaply. Morgan knew that there was a clear need in many communities, so he decided to fill it.

"The problem ain't that there isn't enough food. There's way too much food... It's just not getting to the people." So at the end of the market, Morgan began collecting excess food and piling it in his truck bed, after which he would drive around to neighborhoods where fresh produce wasn't available. His pickup truck of



COURTESY OF HANNAH MELTON
Mill Valley and Gather Baltimore are about a mile away from campus.

produce became an oasis in the city's food deserts. But Morgan wanted to do more.

He started contacting grocery stores and other farmers to ask what they were doing about their food waste. The response was huge: Sources all over the city donate tons of produce now. Although, he won't say which sources: "I can't tell you where the f**k I get my f**kin' food from, ya know? I can't have you goin' to pester my suppliers and then have them get f**king mad at me."

Morgan says that food distributors were more than happy to pass off their nearly-expired but still good products. "They have to spend so much f**kin' money to get rid of the food!" Morgan said. Sometimes it's even trucked into Pennsylvania to be put in a landfill, despite the fact that it's perfectly edible. The operation grew so large that staying mobile was a challenge: Mor-

gan wanted to set down roots.

"Baltimore communities have been screwed over so many times," Spoon said. It's very common for groups to begin aid in a neighborhood and leave after a few months, or move to another area of the city, he explained. "There's a lack of trust for these organizations."

Gather Baltimore has been housed in the basement of 2800 Sisson St. for about a year now, and they don't plan on moving anytime soon, although Spoon hopes they can open hubs elsewhere in the city to broaden their reach. If you're interested in buying a Blue Bag, stop by from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday through Sunday. If you want to volunteer to pack the Blue Bags, show up a little earlier. Don't be surprised if you're sent away; They stop taking volunteers at ten people.

And be ready to hear some colorful language.

There's nothing sexier than social responsibility

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Editor

For many Hopkins students, this will be the first weekend back on campus. Usually this first weekend is a pleasant time, a time before work has spun out of control, a time before nights have become completely sleepless.

However, now that we live in Putin's Russia, it can be a little hard to relax. And rightly so. It's difficult to feel like we have the power to do anything, even though protests are happening all the time and we have a lot of privilege in our attendance of a high-caliber institution.

Of course you can go to protests if you want to be socially active, and you should! There is a No Muslim Ban protest this Saturday in D.C. that is worth attending. However, not all of us are the protesting type, and that's all right. Protesting is not the only way to work against injustice. In fact protest by itself is extremely unlikely to do the trick right now.

Other actions are necessary, too, such as calling your representatives, doing your level best to contact the White House, and donating money directly to organizations that will work for refugees, protect our public lands and water, fight

injustice, and help women keep their reproductive rights, among other things.

While donating money is great, we don't all have money to throw around much, and sometimes, we want to save it for fun or for groceries. Guess what? You can spend money on fun and necessities and still spend it thoughtfully.

If you want to relax this weekend but also want to do something good, Clavel Mezcaleria is currently running a fundraiser for Syrian refugees. All proceeds from the sale of Jinji's peanut butter fig chocolates will go to a fund that helps to support families in Syria who are in trouble, and so will \$4 for every Margarita, Mezcalita, and Queso that Clavel sells. They are halfway to their goal of \$6500 now.

You can also give your business to locally owned and immigrant-owned businesses. It's wrong to talk about immigrants as a weird economic product who should only be let in if they'll benefit our country somehow, but it's not wrong to enjoy what immigrants have contributed to this community and to support them. It's also cool to see just how many businesses are immigrant-owned.

It is especially important to support everyone in our community as this



JON SULLIVAN PUBLIC DOMAIN, LAURIE SHALL CC BY SA, JAMIE LYNN CC BY 3.0 NC
Clockwise: a margarita, a young protester, and the Fell's market banner.

country's government becomes increasingly hostile toward immigrants and people of color who apparently look like immigrants. This is, of course, because all immigrants look exactly the same.

It's not hard to find cool immigrant-owned businesses, but I have one suggestion: Juan of a Kind Foods sells grilled avocados filled with egg, cheese and happiness at the Fell's Point Farmers Market. If that doesn't sound amazing to you, I'm not sure what would.

Since our government is not going to be environmentally responsible for the next four years, it's now our job to make sure that we live as sustainably as possible. The

farmer's market is a great place to shop, and it can be just as cost-effective as Giant, if not more so. You could also spend a day volunteering for Gather Baltimore, which Hannah Melton covered in the article above.

While you deserve to have fun and be happy on the weekend, it's hard to do that when you know how many things are going wrong right now. If you are easily able to relax, you are probably not reading the news. So try to combine your relaxation and your normal errands with your ethical sensibilities. And remember there's nothing sexier or, often, more fun than social responsibility.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

San Fermin frontman talks artistic process *Three fringe musicians to watch in 2017*

By **KATHERINE LOGAN**
Staff Writer

On January 13, the Brooklyn-based band San Fermin released the second single, "Bride," off their forthcoming third LP, *Belong*. San Fermin, the brainchild of Ellis Ludwig-Leone, was founded in 2013. Since then, they have released two studio albums, toured North America as well as Europe and received critical acclaim from the likes of NPR, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Come this April, San Fermin will once again be on tour in support of *Belong*, including a stop at D.C.'s infamous 9:30 Club on May 10. This week, Ludwig-Leone was gracious enough to take time out of his schedule to discuss life on tour, his creative process and how San Fermin continues to evolve with *The News-Letter*.

Writers often find it difficult to label San Fermin's music. If I had to

describe it, I would say it's modern alternative with traces of Ludwig-Leone's background in classical composition, which he studied at Yale. With this in mind, I asked him how he would characterize San Fermin's sound for those that haven't heard their music.

"I've heard that question many times. I don't think I've ever come up with a really satisfactory answer except for to say, 'It's a rock band, but there's more instruments than you'd expect and there's more singers than you'd think. There's two singers and the arrangements are big and important to the songs.' I've heard people call it different things - baroque pop, chamber pop, but I really don't like those terms."

"I'm not out to trick people into listening to classical music or anything. I'm just trying to write the music that I know how to do. Basically, I happen to know how to write for all these

SEE FERMIN, PAGE B4

By **NIKITA SHTARKMAN**
For *The News-Letter*

One of the central tenets of music listening is "putting somebody on," or introducing a person to an artist or song that they haven't heard before. In this article, I want to put you on to three projects and musicians that aren't getting (and probably will not get) mainstream appeal.

1. Griselda

First, I want introduce people to Westside Gunn and Conway, two grimy New York artists on the come up. Under their collective Griselda, helped by the producer Daringer, the two artists have been putting out a bevy of dark, gritty projects.

Do you miss the days when a hip hop beat was one simple, heart-wrenching soul sample with a basic drum beat behind it? Do you miss when rappers talked about selling crack and you actually believed them? Do you miss rappers who have been shot? If you said yes to



WOWEDITS/CC-BY-SA-4.0

Producer Knxwledge performs live at the Hi Hat in Los Angeles after five releases in 2016.

any of these, look no further than these two.

While they aren't in an organized group, the two label mates collaborate very often and complement each other perfectly. Westside Gunn spits with a high pitched, drawling, relaxed flow. He is incredible at emphasizing the most emotionally potent parts of his verses. Conway has a harder, lower voice. He slurs his words while spitting with the best

screw-face in the game, a product of getting shot in the back of the head during a drive by.

While to many, they may seem like simple New York gangster rappers — the offspring of artists like Ja Rule, Jadakiss and 50 Cent — there is something more than pure vile drug rap in their lyrics. There is an earnestness, an ambition and a willingness to play around lyrically that elevates their work above pure "hard stuff." Their lyrics skirt the line between braggadocio, cleverness and honesty.

Recommended listening is *FLYGOD*, Westside Gunn's first studio album. Along with that, people should listen to "The Cow" by Westside Gunn feat. Conway, which has arguably the best verse of the past year.

"If you can put anger on a picture," the sample whispers before the song starts, and it is fitting. Conway uses the beat to weave through his hard life. He describes losing his friends, getting shot, feeling like his life was worthless and his fears about never making it big as a rapper.

"I wrote this... with tears in my eyes" Conway says.

It feels good to hear lyricism that provokes feeling through words and delivery, rather than just melodic tones. As much as I love the mumble rap movement, I sometimes miss that classic "let me tell you how I feel and how my life is going" rap.

2. *Wrptps. 9.1* by Knxwledge

I may be one of the biggest Knxwledge fanboys. He is my favorite contemporary producer. I've been promoting the dude more than he promotes himself. In my opinion, what he does is inspiring.

He slides between minimalism and maximalism, either making whole tracks out of quiet, simple drum beats, or filling the soundscape with layered and complex samples. He makes music that shouldn't sound good sound good.

Knxwledge is perhaps most famous for his work with Kendrick Lamar (he worked on the beat of "Momma" from *To Pimp A Butterfly*) as well as his well-regarded collaboration with Anderson .Paak under the title NxWorries (their latest release *Yes Lawd!* made *The News-Letter* Arts Section's Honorable Mention list for 2016).

This week, he released another project in his long-running series the *Wrap Tapes* — *WT.PRT10.8*. These are projects in which he takes a capella from various rappers, and layers them onto some of his wonky, twisted production. From obscure YouTube freestyles to some of the biggest songs of the year, Knxwledge somehow repurposes the verses as just extra instruments in his ensemble.

A big part of listening to Knxwledge is just curiosity. I am constantly heading into his mixtapes wondering: what can this man do next? This project is no exception. He forms some incredible tracks from the most unlikely pieces.

On *"**10BB"*, Knxwledge takes one of the darkest songs of the year, 21 Savages "X." (from his mixtape with Metro Boomin' *Savage Mode*) and flips it into this heavenly, sweet melodic piece. The keys flutter above Savages' low, grimy voice, while a heavy 808 bassline plots beneath.

My favorite track on this project though, is "Shootrs Myklik." I wish I could explain why. Nothing about this piece should work. The

SEE LISTEN, PAGE B5

Unfortunate Events TV adaptation outshines film



VAGUEONTHEHOW/CC-BY-2.0

Neil Patrick Harris stars as antihero Count Olaf in *Unfortunate Events*.

By **ALLISON SCHINGEL**
For *The News-Letter*

The first page-to-screen adaptation of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* was released in 2004. I was 10, and despite positive reviews, I didn't care for it. It lacks faithfulness to the original books and, as a child, this was essentially the sole barometer of a good film adaptation.

The new Netflix TV series mirrors the texts more accurately. With the role of narrator Lemony Snicket, who Patrick Warburton plays with stoicism and dry wit, elevated to a prominent character position, the TV show is also more tonally true to the original narrative. The film had a bittersweet ending. The TV show does not, but it does have a dark bait-and-switch that the books, in their particular form, were unable to showcase.

Without spoiling anything, there is a certain amount of hope presented for the Baudelaires, but in the final episode

it's revealed to be a red herring.

This is only fitting to the source material. The joy of reading *A Series of Unfortunate Events* as a child can be partially attributed to the search for a thread of hope in the midst of convoluted, quasi-Dadaist tragedy. Everything goes wrong. The heroes are shadow figures. The villains are right there, though, easy to spot and easy to grab.

Both the film and TV show have cast comedians in the role of Count Olaf. Despite differences in general acting style, Neil Patrick Harris and Jim Carrey play Olaf similarly. Carrey is, in his usual manner, more bodily invested in the character's mannerisms. Harris is a bit more subdued, and his everyman face is more hidden in costuming and makeup than Carrey ever could be. Carrey was a manic, unserious villain.

There's less humor in Harris's portrayal and a bit more menace. Olaf is still as much of a blunderer as ever — the Baudelaires

laire children outsmart him on a regular basis — but the most dangerous part of his character is always his ability to lurk. Harris does well with the role, but the TV series does an excellent job of revealing his character to be a fraction of the larger narrative.

The set design is probably the element of the show I most enjoyed. It's stupendous. It shapes the form and mood of all eight episodes. This, too, is fitting to the source material.

A Series of Unfortunate Events lives in a distinctly hard-to-pinpoint world, one that could be anywhere in the West, in a time that feels like the early 20th century and yet seems to exist somehow out of time.

In this ambiguity, there is something like universality; this story could happen to anyone. And the narrator only makes the tale more tangible. He's done his research and he's telling us what he's discovered. He could be a real person. Warburton's Lemony Snicket adds to this accessibility. Like Harris, he has the everyman factor. He looks like any dad at a summer backyard barbecue. He talks like he wants you to understand what he's saying.

Dark humor pervades *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, but none of it feels as comedic any more. Blame it on Warburton, or the eerie set, or the despondency exuded by the child actors portraying the Baudelaires, or just blame it on my own adult perspective.

I was promised a sad story; I was warned by the books' own narration that children shouldn't be reading it. So of course I read on. I was entertained. But the humor no longer feels like humor. Something

in our cultural landscape has shifted in the decade since the last installment was published.

The 2004 film allowed for a happier ending that the books never granted. I was repulsed by this when I first watched it, though I wasn't quite sure why. Even as a kid, I didn't want the neat conclusion that I was given. It didn't make any sense. It makes even less sense now, and this is why I have to prefer the TV series.

I watched it with the prevailing sense that the entire story of the Baudelaires wasn't a huge distortion of reality. Quite the opposite, in fact: The President of the United States is a reality TV star. His administration is governing like they don't have any real regard for the law. There are Nazis and white nationalists and antifascist activists running about our political landscape. Absurdism in art no longer feels like an exaggeration. We live in strange times. Let whatever we create be strange, too.

Media in the Bush era largely sought to obfuscate sinister policies; wars were initially justified, a grotesque national security state was applauded, the exploited poor were blamed for their dilemmas and civil liberty violations were ignored (this part of the Bush legacy was solidified under Obama). Happy endings, in which children saved themselves with a mix of wit and courage, were the norm. How could they not be? White middle-class America needed something digestible.

But Donald Trump is president now, and palatable endings just seem like a form of denial. Fire is consuming the mansion; The organization that committed this arson was always close by. We no longer have the luxury to ignore what's in front of us.



JON ELBAZ/CC-BY-SA-2.0

Kendrick Lamar collaborated with Knxwledge on *To Pimp A Butterfly*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Black History Month in Baltimore made easy

Culture is Migos' much deserved victory lap

By MIA CAPOBIANCO
Arts & Entertainment Editor

February is upon us, and with it come half-hearted internship applications, daunting exam schedules and the quagmire that is Greek life recruitment. But outside the snobbish "bubble" of Ad-derall and tech startups that we call Homewood, February means education and celebration during Black History Month.

Hopkins undergrads, as we well know, have the privilege of spending four-ish Februaries in Baltimore, a city whose history in many ways embodies the struggles and achievements of black Americans. Now that white supremacists have taken hold of some of the nation's highest offices, it is imperative that students actively resist the erasure of black oppression in America, both historically and today.

With its many local celebrations, cultural events and didactic installations, Baltimore is an ideal site for self-education and reflection this month.

Several area museums are hosting events and special exhibitions this month. On Feb. 11 The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is holding a Black Memorabilia Fine Art & Craft Show, which includes a panel discussion about Harriet Tubman and a talk entitled "Personal Reflections on Brother Malcolm X." The museum, well worth a visit in its own right, is hosting several additional events throughout February. Also of note is a Feb. 4 lecture on Frederick Douglass and photography, given by John Stauffer, professor of English and African and African American Studies at Harvard University.

Currently on view at the B&O Railroad Museum are exhibits such as "Makers of the Railroad: African

Americans on the B&O" and "A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture," a traveling exhibit produced by the Smithsonian. On Feb. 5, the Walters Art Museum is holding a gallery talk entitled "Images of the African Diaspora in the Walters' Collection."

On Saturday afternoons, tours of the USS Constellation will highlight its role in hindering the Atlantic slave trade. On Feb. 18, local WoC collective BALTI GURLS is hosting a workshop on self-care at the Baltimore Museum of Art. This Friday, the National Aquarium is hosting a celebration, which will include music and performances in addition to interactive educational displays.

Creative Alliance is hosting a discussion titled "What Does It Mean to Be Black" and screening *Awake Zion* on February 16. If you haven't already, now might be a good time to visit the Blacks in

Wax Museum, which is, you guessed it, a wax museum devoted to African American history.

To reiterate, this is a small sampling of the many events and resources dedicated to uplifting Black voices and highlighting African American history in Baltimore. Furthermore, the Office of Multicultural Affairs has released a schedule of programming for Black History Month, including film screenings, panels, talks and less formal discussion. Get updates and more information by liking "Johns Hopkins University: Black History Month" on Facebook.

Finally, be sure to check out bmoreblack.com so that you can support local Black-owned businesses while you're out and about this month.



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

W e l l A m e r i c a , t h i n g s a r e n o t g o i n g w e l l . O n J a n . 2 0 , w e g o t m a t c h i n g i n f i n i t y s y m b o l t a t t o o s w i t h o u r b r a n d - n e w b o y f r i e n d b u t n o w , j u s t o v e r a w e e k i n t o t h e r e l a t i o n s h i p , w e h a v e r e a l i z e d t h a t t h a t d e c i s i o n m i g h t h a v e b e e n a m i s - t a k e .

Things are becoming increasingly dire as the Annoying Orange and his goose-stepping legion of invertebrate pus-sacks steadily chip away at the rights of every conceivable minority... except rich people. It is generally pretty bad, to put it mildly and the next four years look to be progressively darker, with little promise of any real brightness on the horizon.

However, a light has appeared, one which might serve as a beacon of hope for the righteous. A steadfast cultural icon has reminded us there might still be hope for the future. Rejoice, dear reader, for Migos has blessed us with a new album.

Aptly called *Culture*, this is the latest album from a group which has done so much to change the tone of contemporary popular rap. The album's hit single, "Bad and Boujee," was good enough to make every drunken upper-middle class white kid sing their mispronounced refrain — "bad and boushieeeeeee" — at parties, in clubs, and really wherever the youth congregate.

That got to the top ten in the charts, despite having what is arguably the worst Lil Uzi Vert (known for songs like "Money Longer") verse of all time. The other major singles, "T-Shirt," "What the Price," and "Call Casting" were



COURTESY OF 300 ENTERTAINMENT

Migos return for their second studio album, *Culture*, on the heels of a number of guest appearances.

successful in their own right, albeit not to the monumental extent of "Bad and Boujee," which was a source of much-needed solace in this time of cheese-flavored fascism.

The album comes off the heels of Migos supposedly signing a management deal with Kanye West's GOOD Music imprint which ultimately didn't pan out. *Culture* is the group's sophomore effort following their 2015 studio debut *Yung Rich Nation*. The group received a great amount of press over the eight month custody that breakout member of the group, Offset, served in 2015.

"Bad and Boujee" also received a sale bump following the award acceptance speech by fellow rapper Donald Glover who had the trio on the pilot of his show, *Atlanta*, and praised the song.

The group is firing on all cylinders following a stellar 2016.

Culture has all the Migos album essentials: some solid features, Quavo's auto-tuned warble on the hooks, and the Migos flow. Also the album artwork includes explosions, doves, a Lamborghini, a pagoda and thousands of dollars worth of designer clothing. The production does not depart much from the usual — Murda Beatz, Metro Boomin, 808 Mafia, and Zaytoven all figure prominently.

However, on several

tracks, the Black Beatles experiment with some new collaborations. "T-Shirt" was co-produced by Atlanta duo Nard & B, who have previously worked with the likes of Future, Ty Dolla Sign, and 2 Chainz. Certainly not a shoddy curriculum vitae and their talent shows on "T-Shirt." Texas producer Cardo contributed the beat for "Deadz," which is a song worthy of at least two flame emojis, due in no small part to its godly 2 Chainz feature.

Again, Migos stay true to form by leaving Quavo on the majority of the hooks, although in "Bad and Boujee," Offset takes the refrain. This is a good thing for a couple reasons: Offset is awesome, and, while Quavo hooks are great, it can be nice to change things up a bit.

Content remains essentially the same in that sense that it's all about selling drugs, making/spending money, and having extravagant amounts of sex. There is also something which sounds suspiciously like a love song. "Out Yo Way," the last track on the album, has some of the trappings of a romantic ballad à la Migos, which is a shame given that love was invented by the illuminati to keep us complacent.

Speaking of things that are a shame, let us talk about features, or more appropriately, a feature. As was mentioned, Lil' Uzi's was certifiably terrible, which is too bad because usually his weird croon is a dependable asset on a track. However, the other features on *Culture*

are certainly worth it. For one, you have Travis Scott on "Kelly Price" who, despite how you may feel about his music, often does well on other people's tracks.

Then there is 2 Chainz on "Deadz," who possesses the magical ability to bless any song that is lucky enough to feature his talent. Finally, there is the living icon, the East Atlanta Santa, the Landmower Man, Guwop, the Trap God, La Flare-Gucci f**king Mane. Ever since getting out of jail, Gucci has gone on a musical quest, featuring on and putting out a number of party anthems as well as multiple mixtapes.

He does not disappoint on "Slippery." Also, there is a DJ Khaled feature but really, who cares. If I wanted to hear someone yell incoherently, I would watch clips of Sean Spicer's press conferences.

Ultimately, *Culture* is nothing new. However, when you are a group like Migos and you have created a formula which has found you success in all of your albums, why change things up? This album is the Migos their fans know and love, with some minor tweaks — a few experiments with the beats and a little rearranging of the musical structure.

Culture is not necessarily my favorite Migos album but that is not to say it is bad. Overall, it was what we needed in these dark times, a welcome distraction from the tiny boot of fascism pressing down upon our necks. *Culture* reminds us that truth and beauty still exist in this ugly world and, for that reason, it is an album worth listening to.

An interview with San Fermin's Ludwig-Leone

SAN FERMIN, FROM B3 instruments, and I also happen to not be able to sing very well. So, those were my limitations and my strengths going into it, and then I wrote these songs," he said.

On San Fermin's first record, Ludwig-Leone relied on writing through the lens of a male and a female character, whereas with Jackrabbit and Belong, he has gradually embraced drawing from more personal material.

"I think when I was a little younger everything felt like the be-all end-all when I would write it, and I was very prone to being kind of melodramatic. So, whenever I'd try to think about my own life, I would get that way, in a way that was often not great. As I've gotten a little bit older, there's a little bit more of a sense of perspective to everything I'm writing. I feel confident enough as a songwriter and in who I am as a person that I'm able to see the kinds of

things that trouble me on a day to day basis or that are interesting to me personally with a little bit more perspective and insight," he said.

As for what continued success for this project looks like for him, Ludwig-Leone is focused on maintaining the quality of San Fermin's music while simultaneously continuing to grow their fan base.

"Success for this project for me is continuing to be able to write the music that I want to write and continuing to have a fan base that cares about it and that supports us and hopefully continuing to grow. It's an eight-person band, and they all need to eat, so it's important that the venues keep growing and that the shows keep getting better. Really it's just making sure that the music itself is good, that I'm happy I'm writing it and that basically it seems to be relevant enough to people's lives that they care about listening to it,"

he said.

In the midst of their success, Ludwig-Leone and the rest of the band remain humble by keeping things in perspective.

"A good way to keep humble is to play summer rock festivals like Lollapalooza or whatever. You go there, and if you think you're doing well, Eminem is playing later that night and he's on a whole other scale of that. It's helpful to basically remind yourself that there's a long way to go. You want to bring the music to as many people as you can, but you also want the music to be true and good music that is coming from somewhere honest. It's hard to write good music like that if you're kind of up your own ass," he said.

Making the time to pursue one's creative goals can seem overwhelming amidst our chaotic schedules and obligatory commitments, yet Ludwig-Leone emphasizes the importance

of doing so.

"My advice would be to always prioritize your creative work. It's easy to be like 'Well, I'll make this painting after I finish my homework, or I'll write this song after I go to work to make money,' or whatever. I think you obviously have to do what you have to do to get by, but it's really easy for people to think of their creative work as a secondary thing, and as soon as you start thinking about it that way, it's a much harder road. So I would say always prioritizing the work, and always prioritizing your time so that any time you can, you're working on. It's a competitive field and a lot of people want to do it, so you just have to want it more," he said.

Be sure to check out *Belong* when it's released on April 7 and catch San Fermin live at the 9:30 Club in Washington D.C. on May 10.

This interview has been condensed. View the full version online.



COURTESY OF 300 ENTERTAINMENT

Culture is strengthened by its strong trap production and ad-libs.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

La La Land revives the Hollywood musical



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Emma Stone stars as Mia in Damien Chazelle's new film *La La Land*.

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Romantic musical comedy *La La Land* has taken critics and audiences by storm since its widespread release in early January. Many have praised the film's writer and director Damien Chazelle and applauded soulful performances from Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling and the award-winning original soundtrack.

La La Land was conceived and written by Chazelle in 2010 as a tribute to the dying genre of Hollywood musicals, but he initially struggled to find a studio willing to invest in such a risky project. After graduating from Harvard University, the filmmaker moved to Los Angeles, where he wrote and directed the 2014 film *Whiplash* starring Miles Teller. The film was a critical and commercial success, earning several awards and nominations, including a nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay for Chazelle.

After the success of *Whiplash*, studios became more interested in

producing *La La Land*, a more complex and expensive production that took almost two years to make. Miles Teller was even contacted to star in the film for a certain point. Stone and Gosling underwent months of rehearsal before shooting began and the film spent nearly a year in editing as Chazelle worked to ensure he captured his stylistically dark but fantastical tone.

The film is visually stunning, opening with an ambitious dance number shot in one take on an overpass in Los Angeles. This one-take method is used throughout the film to create some beautiful scenes like the meeting at sunset between Sebastian (Gosling) and Mia (Stone) and their silhouetted dance among the stars at a planetarium.

A mesmerizing soundtrack perfectly complements Chazelle's gorgeously imagined Los Angeles, allowing these iconic musical numbers to fit seamlessly into the progression of the engaging story of love and ambition. The development of the chemistry

between Mia and Sebastian is believable, but the film ultimately succeeds not as a romance but as a darker tale of sacrifice. *La La Land* depicts Hollywood as a dreamland but exposes the truth that following one's dream forces one to make difficult choices.

Emma Stone excels as Mia, an aspiring actress who grows disenchanted by her lack of success in auditions and inexplicably becomes embroiled in a whirlwind romance with a struggling jazz musician. They are passionate about different things, but bond over their mutual ambition to follow their dreams.

Stone's portrayal is heartfelt, drawing from her own experience as an aspiring actress to deliver a nuanced performance. Mia is a sympathetic and driven character who is defined independently of Sebastian, allowing the story to break away from tired romance tropes to explore other themes. It is Stone's superb acting that sets this story apart from a genre that is oversaturated with generic and uninspired rom-coms.

Gosling falls just short of Stone as Sebastian, not just because of his shaky tenor that sometimes struggles to match her strong, expressive vocals. He does an excellent job emulating James Dean in testing the line between charmingly burly and unnecessarily aggressive, but his portrayal works well with Stone's character, particularly in the rough parts of their relationship.

The dynamic between Mia and Sebastian is most engaging when they are at odds, exemplified by the song "A Lovely Night," in which they complain about wasting the evening in one another's company.

The film's opening and closing acts are im-

peccable, but its weakest section falls in the middle, while Mia and Sebastian are engaged in pursuing their dreams, and their relationship is going smoothly. Although developing their romance is instrumental to earning the unexpected but well-executed ending, this middle section isn't especially engaging and is riddled with forgettable secondary characters.

A guest feature from John Legend as the leader of a mainstream jazz band that Sebastian joins should have invigorated this film. Make no mistake, John Legend is an exceptional musician and was well suited to the role, but he was wasted as a character who appeared conveniently and faded out when the story didn't need him anymore.

The same can be said of Mia's boyfriend (Finn Wittrock), who slipped from memory before he'd had a chance to leave an impression. Props to Chazelle for not using her boyfriend to resort to a tired love triangle, but why bother with him at all?

Despite some weaknesses in the story, the development of Mia and Sebastian's relationship is well-paced and comes to an original conclusion, and the highly stylized, fantastical world allows Chazelle to explore the way we perceive the glamour of Hollywood and what it can mean to chase this unrealistic dream.

An incredible soundtrack, genuine and nuanced performances from Stone and Gosling and inspired direction from Chazelle make *La La Land* a film that earns its hype, its accolades and the price of admission.

La La Land is also up for Best Picture in this year's Academy Awards, with Gosling picking up a Best Actor nod.

January's Best Music Releases

1. "Hallelujah Money" by Gorillaz
2. "Call Casting" by Migos
3. "T-Shirt" by Migos
4. "Sneakin'" by Knxwledge
5. "Theydntkare." by Knxwledge
6. "Dirtbags in Distress" by Divine Council
7. "Performance" by The xx
8. "Pink White House" by Priests
9. "Leila 20" by Priests
10. "Realize My Fate" by Cloud Nothings

Unknown artists to check out this year

LISTEN, FROM B3

a cappella is far behind the backing track — drowned by the bass and saxophone of the soul sample. Throughout the song, Knxwledge filters out the high frequencies, making it sound almost like the song is being played underwater. It feels like Knxwledge is trying to sabotage the very song he's working on, but all of it only helps the groove. It is hard to get through this song without nodding your head.

Knxwledge's background also includes production for numerous artists. Some standouts include Action Bronson (in his collaboration with Big Body Bes, "Durag vs Headband"), Homeboy Sandman (for the track "Problems" from his fourth album *Hallways*), Pyramid Vritra (half of the Odd Future affiliated group The Jet Age of Tomorrow) and even Joey Bada\$\$ (on a 2011 track released with the deceased Capital STEEZ — RIP Steelo).

3. Herbie Hancock

Now turning back to the past, I want to recommend one of Herbie Hancock's lesser known projects — *Mr. Hands*.

Herbie Hancock came up as a member of Miles Davis's Second Great

Quintet.

The music of *Mr. Hands* fits the cover perfectly — it's abstract funk. The album itself feels like the soundtrack to a weird, synthetic heaven. Synths and quantized drums, two very robotic sounding things, are brought together by Hancock to create natural yet eerie grooves.

My favorite track is "Textures," a smooth, rolling piece of funk. The music seems to hover, both airy and sweet. The weird synths call forth what I imagine ancient Egyptian music sounded like. The drums are overtly robotic and perfect. The lead synth wails across the soundscape, standing in for what would usually be a lead singer. The humanity that this electronic instrument evokes is eerie and interesting and somehow beautiful too. The track also includes a constant, sliding bassline, and some high, sublime organs.

Mr. Hands is just strange enough to be interesting without being quirky. Hancock, already a legendary jazz and funk musician, succeeds at melding new sounds into the already defined tapestry of those genres. This is great music to listen to on a spring day or working in a room lit by daylight.

Train to Busan excels using typical horror tropes

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Although there were plenty of strong films such as *The Witch* and *Don't Breathe*, horror films released in 2016 were missing something, in my opinion. At a certain point I, as a horror fan, have a craving for something I know, just executed extremely well. Everyone wants to reinvent the wheel nowadays and sometimes all it takes to make a great film is to wear clichés and tropes on your sleeves and execute them in an amazing way. That's what *Train to Busan* does and it excels because of it.

Train to Busan is a South Korean zombie flick surrounding a divorced salaryman's attempt to grant his daughter's one birthday request, to see her mother in the South Korean city of Busan (the film starts in Seoul). The film has all the classic horror film beats in its setup.

As the father and daughter enter the train, there's of course the sick person who will start the epidemic, as well as numerous people who the camera lingers on, people who you know will

form the meat of the supporting cast.

The film really gets started around 30 minutes in, and from that point it really doesn't take a breather for the rest of its nearly two-hour runtime. The action doesn't stop, and it doesn't leave room for the audience to breathe. In most genres that would be seen as a negative, but luckily *Train to Busan* uses the stressful situation to build a few strong characters.

After the initial zombie outbreak on the train, the characters make it to the city of Daejeon, where a military outpost is reported to be active. Yet as the ragtag group of survivors make their way to the checkpoint they soon realize that Daejeon has been overrun and make their way back onto the train, this time headed for what they know is the final stop, Busan, where another supposedly more successful military checkpoint is set up.

Ma Dong-seok takes the cake of best acting performance in the film, in his role as Sang-hwa. Sang-hwa is a man with a pregnant wife who comes into conflict with

the protagonist early on. They work together for the rest of the film and form a zombie-killing tandem that you can't help but cheer for.

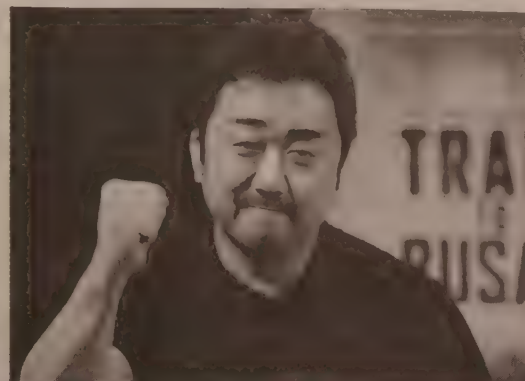
The cinematography is mostly unremarkable, but there aren't any major problems with it.

The film's strengths revolve mostly around the ridiculous set pieces that director Yeon Sang-Ho (who had mostly directed animated films prior to this) set up. These include memorable sequences in which the cast of survivors must sneak through a completely darkened train — since without sight the zombies have to rely on only sound to hunt — and a final chase

sequence that seems to improve on every aspect of a similar chase scene in Brad Pitt's 2013 stinker *World War Z*.

Train to Busan isn't flawless. It's very melodramatic at points and most characters get lengthy speeches to accompany their deaths. It's also not one for the squeamish, but it's far from the most violent zombie movie of the past decade.

All in all, *Train to Busan* takes genre expectations of zombie movies and manages to craft an action-filled horror film that, while not the scariest, is the tightest and in my opinion best horror film of 2016.



ITSNEWKOREA/CC-BY-3.0
Ma Dong-seok stars as Sang-hwa in *Train to Busan*, a zombie film.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

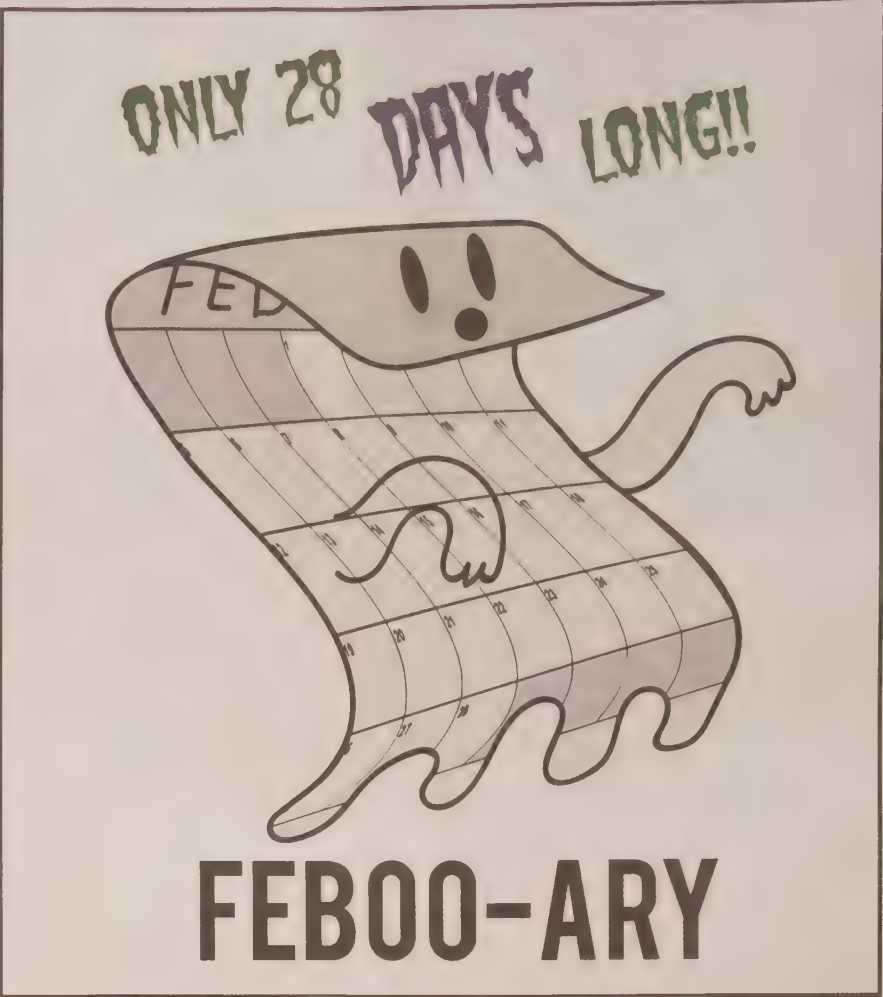
By Stephanie Herrera

True Love, man



"Even though he's stuck in the 70's
I still love him anyway!"

Tony Street 2017



By Tony Street

Hey There Kids!

By Stephanie Herrera

100% **DAD JOKES** *"A Vintage Advantage"*

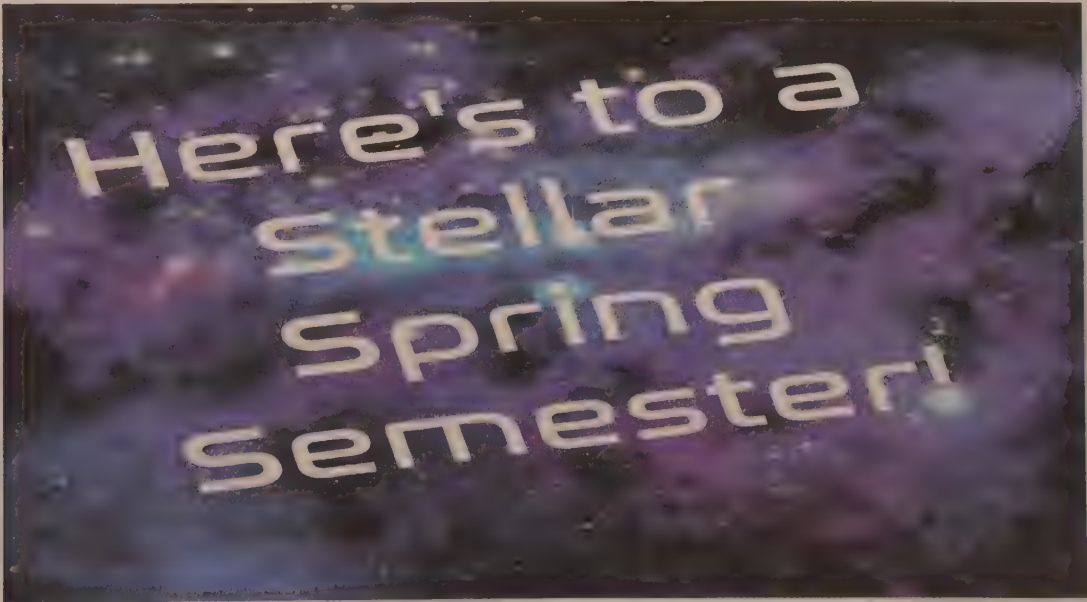
Q: What do you call a blind antelope??



A: No Eye Deer???

Q: But what if it has
no legs??

A. ... Still
No Eye Deer?



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UTL lauded for its environmental efficiency Woman survives six days without lungs



COURTESY OF SABRINA CHEN
The UTL was awarded the Platinum certification for being an energy efficient building.

By **CATHY NIE**
Staff Writer

Trekking across campus to the Bloomberg Department of Physics or the Recreation Center, it is impossible to miss the iconic four-story-high Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories (UTL) building. Though you may have noticed its glazed-glass exterior and cells of students and staff alike conducting experiments, the UTL stands out this year for a different reason: its platinum certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

(LEED) program.

The LEED program, administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, includes a point system that rates the environmental impact of buildings as Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum. Out of 108 possible points, the UTL scored 80 points.

Although the 105,000-square foot facility houses state-of-the-art labs focused on a variety of subjects such as chemistry, biology, neuroscience and biophysics, Hopkins is committed to maintaining the UTL's cutting-edge technological pro-

air, the UTL received the highest possible LEED certification, surpassing the University's overall LEED Silver standard.

"To achieve Platinum for such a resource-intensive building truly speaks to the design and construction team's commitment to integrate sustainability in innovative throughout the space," Ashley Pennington, program manager of the Johns Hopkins Office of Sustainability, said in a press release.

The UTL also surpassed the administration's predicted LEED Silver or Gold certification at its opening in 2013.

The UTL is 40 percent more energy efficient than similar lab buildings, and its design success is unprecedented compared to other buildings on campus. In particular, its energy-recovering technology recycles energy that would otherwise be lost — a novel feature that makes the UTL revolutionary among labs. Even the building's exterior repurposes resources that would normally have no

function; Its micro-biore-tention and rain gardens help capture stormwater runoff.

"Compared to its neighbors Mudd Hall, the Levi Building and the Biology III Building, the UTL building is using about half the energy they use," Matthew Beecy, associate director of engineering, energy and sustainability for Johns Hopkins Facilities and Real Estate, said in a press release.

According to Beecy, the novel technology installed and the management of building operations are key factors in energy conservation.

Brad Crowley, a project engineer who helped design the facility, said in 2013 that a major part of the design process was to emphasize low energy use and help decrease the university's carbon footprint. Less than four years later, the UTL has become a symbol of Hopkins' commitment to maintaining both scientific progress and sustainability in an era when environmental consciousness is more critical than ever.

In the future, Hopkins will become an increasingly environmentally conscious campus — the upcoming \$30 million renovation of Macaulay Hall will be modeled on the new standard the UTL has set on campus. Perhaps other universities and research facilities will shift towards more sustainable technology as well.

As Greg Ball, former vice dean for science and research infrastructure, stated in 2013 concerning the UTL's unveiling, the facility itself can serve as a research model.

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Science & Technology Editor

It has been proven that humans can survive without appendices, gallbladder, spleen and even parts of their pancreas and liver, but the lung has always been considered an essential organ. That is, until thoracic surgeons at Toronto General Hospital of University Health Network, successfully resected the infected lungs of a dying woman.

The surgeons were able to keep the woman alive for six days, allowing her to recover from the infection and receive a transplant.

The 32-year-old woman, Melissa Benoit, had been fighting cystic fibrosis for three years. She had been infected with the influenza virus, and the illness had left Benoit with inflamed lungs filled with blood, pus and mucus. Furthermore, her coughing fits were so severe that she had fractured her ribs. This limited the amount of air entering her lungs, and by the time she arrived at the intensive care unit in early April of 2016, Benoit was using a ventilator to help her breathe.

Once Benoit's oxygen levels dipped below normal survival limits, the ventilation system could no longer supply her with enough air to survive any longer.

"The influenza tipped her over the edge into respiratory failure. She got into a spiral from which her lungs were not going to recover. Her only hope of recovery was

a lung transplant," Dr. Niall Ferguson, Head of Critical Care Medicine at the University Health Network (UHN) and Mount Sinai, said.

Benoit was first put on Extra-Corporeal Lung Support, which is a life-support technology, but Benoit's condition only worsened, with the bacteria spreading from her lungs to the rest of her body and her organs beginning to shut down as she progressed into septic shock.

The only option at that point was a lung transplant, but the bacterial infection had made Benoit unable to receive a transplant until she fully recovered.

"This was bold and very challenging, but Melissa was dying before our eyes," Dr. Shaf Keshavjee, Surgeon-in-Chief of Sprott Department of Surgery at UHN, said. "We had to make a decision because Melissa was going to die that night. Melissa gave us the courage to go ahead." Dr. Keshavjee was one of the three surgeons who performed the lung-removal operation on Melissa.

The surgical team decided to try a procedure that had never before been done. They planned to remove Benoit's lungs to take away the source of infection, let her recover, and then insert the new lungs when she was ready. Although the procedure had many risks, including increased bleeding into an empty chest cavity and reduced blood pressure and oxygen levels to all-time lows, Benoit

SEE TRANSPLANT, PAGE B9

Insecticides may alter our circadian rhythm

By **SHERRY SIMKOVIC**
Staff Writer

University at Buffalo biologists recently discovered that toxic chemicals commonly found in insecticides have the ability to change the way our biological clocks function. The researchers believe that they have uncovered the previously unknown mechanism by which insecticides put people at higher risk for metabolic diseases like diabetes.

The team, led by Marina Popevska-Gorevski, used predictive computational modeling on millions of chemicals and in-vitro experiments with cells that express human melatonin receptors, combining big data techniques with standard wet-lab approaches.

They focused on two carbamate-based chemicals commonly found in insecticides and garden products, carbaryl and carbofuran. Carbaryl, which is illegal in several countries, is the third most widely used insecticide in the United

States. In 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency banned carbofuran, the most toxic carbamate, from application on food crops. However, many countries, including Mexico, still use carbofuran.

The results are part of a larger project that Margarita Dubocovich and her team at the University at Buffalo (UB) are currently working on. They have developed a bioassay, called Chem-2Risk, capable of predicting the risk factor of all types of chemicals. She and her colleagues have developed a database containing approximately four million chemicals capable of causing human harm with varying levels of toxicity.

"Our approach seamlessly integrates the screening of environmental chemicals through computer simulation, in vitro and in vivo techniques to gauge the risk these chemicals present for various disease end points," Raj Rajnarayanan, lead

SEE INSECT, PAGE B8



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Chemicals in insecticides could affect our sense of day and night.

Tech companies could be impacted by Trump's ban

By **SCOTT ZHENG**
Science & Technology Editor

President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration prevents non-U.S. citizens in seven Middle Eastern countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — from setting foot in the United States.

Technology companies such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft fear that Trump's administration could adversely affect their hiring process with further immigration reforms.

Indeed, Trump's administration is working on an executive order that could displace current work-visa programs, which tech companies use to hire a substantial number of employees every year.

Initially, work-visa programs helped companies hire foreign workers when they could not identify qualified workers in the United States. When these programs were first implemented, foreign workers were perceived as disadvantaged because acquiring a work visa requires extra effort on the company's part.

Recently, however, government officials have blamed companies for abusing work-visa

programs to hire employees that are willing to work for less, effectively taking jobs away from U.S. citizens.

Some Hopkins students think that the Trump administration can enforce equal employment policies rather than alienate foreign workers.

"In order to promote American employment, it would be more useful to somehow require foreigners and Americans to be paid the same or similarly rather than ban tech companies from hiring foreigners," senior Nadeem Bandedly said.

Senior Wilhelm Liano also observed the initial disadvantage that foreign workers experience.

"Foreign workers with work visas are at a disadvantage to start with," Liano said. "By choosing someone with a work visa over someone who is local, it just shows the qualifications for this foreign worker are much higher than the local worker."

Apple, Google and Microsoft do pay employees in their tech work-visa program, the H-1B program, annually of \$100,000 upwards. However, India-based outsourcing companies, such as Infosys Limited and Tata Consultancy, only pay their H-1B employees around \$70,000



ROMAN BOED/CC-BY-2.0

Trump's visa ban could be a detriment to tech companies like Google.

a year, suggesting that outsourcing firms are the companies that are taking advantage of the existing work-visa programs.

Furthermore, outsourcing companies take up the majority of H-1B work-visas, which are limited to 85,000 total visas a year. American companies are left with fewer work visas to give to highly qualified employees.

Congress members from both parties are working to enforce stricter restrictions for the tech work-visa program. Legislation drafts are already in motion.

"My legislation refocuses the H-1B program

to its original intent — to seek out and find the best and brightest from around the world and to supplement the U.S. workforce with talented, highly-paid and highly-skilled workers," Zoe Lofgren, Democratic congresswoman from California, said in a statement.

Indian companies are heavily opposed to work-visa reform, with executives claiming that the lower salaried employees have more specialized training for the jobs that they are employed for.

"Inspections and investigation in the past have shown no cases of wrongdoing by Indian

SEE TRUMP, PAGE B9

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Antidepressants increase risk of birth defects



DILMEN/CC-BY-3.0
Physical and mental birth defects may be antidepressant-associated.

By ELAINE CHIAO
Staff Writer

Depression is becoming a more prevalent, and it has the tendency to occur especially more frequently during pregnancy. Depression during pregnancy is essentially a biological illness that acts similarly to any other kind of clinical depression by altering brain chemistry.

Recently scientists discovered that pregnant women who consume antidepressants have a much higher possibility of giving birth to a child with physical and mental defects than pregnant women without depression.

This Université de Montréal (UdeM) study was published in the *British Medical Journal*. Although there have been theories in the past that suggested various links between factors such as antidepressants and low birth weight, miscarriages and au-

tism, they had not been officially confirmed until the publication of this study.

On a more specific scale, about six to 10 percent of pregnant women who are on drugs give birth to antidepressants with defects. This is compared to three to five percent in pregnant women not taking drugs.

Anick Bérard, senior author of the study, said, "In pregnancy, you're treating the mother, but you're worried about the unborn child, and the benefit needs to outweigh the risk."

Bérard is a professor at UdeM's Faculty of Pharmacy. In addition she is a researcher at the university's affiliated children's hospital, CHU Sainte-Justine. Bérard is an expert in pregnancy and depression.

She collected statistical data from 18,487 depressed women in the Quebec Pregnancy Cohort in order to draw the important conclusion in

her report.

Among the women studied, around 20 percent of them had the history of taking antidepressants during their first three months of pregnancy.

"We only looked at the first trimester, because this is where all the organ systems are developing. At 12 weeks of gestation, the baby is formed," Bérard said.

This means that the initial three months of pregnancy are crucial to a child's development because it is the stage where most of the child's basic biological functions and organs are developed. Any type of antidepressant intake during this critical period could have detrimental and irreversible effects on a child's health.

The science behind this phenomenon lies behind the functions of the neurotransmitter serotonin. Immediately after conception serotonin becomes an important signaling molecule for the development of embryonic cells into fetuses. As a result, any change that interferes with the metabolic production and signaling pathway of serotonin can possibly be the catalyst for a wide range of child defects.

There are many antidepressants that are commonly taken during pregnancy, such as Celexa, Paxil, Effexor and Elavil. Taking Celexa within the first three months of pregnancy, for example, can often lead

to an increase in major birth defects. The consumption of Paxil may lead to an increased risk in heart defects.

Similarly the consumption of Effexor is commonly associated with lung defects. The consumption of Elavil, a general form of tricyclic antidepressants, also shows a significant increase in eye, ear, face and neck defects.

Over the past few decades, depression has gradually emerged to be one of the most serious problems in modern society. In fact, depression has been categorized as one of the major causes of death according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Since depression frequently becomes worse during pregnancies, many psychiatrists and obstetricians are beginning to prescribe larger doses and a wider variety of antidepressants to pregnant women.

In the released studies, researchers discovered that women who take antidepressants during pregnancy are typically those who are either older or in need of financial support.

Since an increasing number of women are diagnosed with depression during pregnancy each year, the study's results ultimately amplified the need for caution with antidepressant use as well as the possibility of developing an alternative treatment without the involvement of drugs.

AI system with spatial recognition developed

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

One of the biggest obstacles in the study of artificial intelligence is the computer's lack of basic understanding of how the world works.

"We [humans] know that birds fly, that people blink and breathe and eat food and sleep. But an iPhone doesn't know that if you push it off the desk, it will break," Benjamin Van Durme, an assistant computer science professor at Hopkins, said in an interview with the *JHUEngineering* magazine.

A recent study published by a Northwestern University team found that the artificial intelligence system they developed performed better than humans on a standard intelligence test. The test used, called the Raven's Progressive Matrices, is a multiple choice, nonverbal standardized test that measures cognitive ability.

All 60 questions are formatted so that each question consists of visual patterns in matrices of varying sizes. Each matrix has a missing pattern with six to eight possible correct choices.

"The Raven's test is the best existing predictor of what psychologists call 'fluid intelligence, or the general ability to think abstractly, reason, identify patterns, solve problems, and discern relationships,'" Andrew Lovett, a former Northwestern postdoctoral researcher in psychology, said in a press release.

The computational model used in the tests was created by CogSketch, an artificial intelligence system that was developed in the laboratory of Northwestern professor and expert in artificial intelligence, Kenneth Forbus. CogSketch acts both as a platform for sketch-based education software and experimental simulations.

This visual under-

standing system pushes the realms of cognitive science by providing spatial recognition to artificial intelligence. With this tool under their belts, computers are able to draw conclusions with information limited to the visual stimuli provided.

Humans can abstractly analyze visuals or perceive relations of objects. Artificial intelligence lacks elements of basic human understanding which include the inability to discern relationships, understand analogies and identify patterns.

Modern artificial intelligence cannot infer, predict or solve problems without fluid intelligence or prior experience. Therefore the development of both machine learning and fluid intelligence are essential for machines to comprehensively understand man.

"But recognition [a part of machine learning] is only useful if it supports subsequent reasoning [fluid intelligence]. Our research provides an important step toward understanding visual reasoning more broadly," Forbus said in a press release.

A superior artificial intelligence will yield many benefits such as better computed decisions by considering patterns and enhanced problem solving by reasoning using relational representations. Forbus and Lovett's work dissolved the rift between human and artificial intelligence thinking, proving that artificial intelligence is capable of performing just as well as a human on an intelligence test.

However, artificial intelligence adequately replacing humans in dynamic, real-world situations is still simply a concept. It is expected to take many years to develop an artificial intelligence system capable of thinking like a human.

Promising Alzheimer's drug fails in large trial

By ADARSHA MALLA
Staff Writer

An experimental Alzheimer's drug called Solanezumab that previously showed promise in its ability to slow the memory deterioration observed in Alzheimer's patients recently failed in clinical trials.

This was a huge disappointment for many patients hoping for an effective treatment option. Furthermore since solanezumab targeted the buildup of amyloid proteins, its failure challenges aspects of our current understanding of Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's disease is a chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disease that causes 60 to 70 percent of dementia cases. In advanced stages of the disease, patients often have problems with speech, become disoriented easily, have mood swings and often withdraw from family and society. The cause of Alzheimer's is still not fully understood.

Researchers suggest that approximately 70 percent of the risk is genetic, with multiple genes having responsibility in the onset of the disease.

The current leading theory on the pathology of Alzheimer's revolves around the idea that proteins, specifically amyloid-beta and tau, abnormally group together in the brain.

When these protein plaques bind to the surface of neurons and change the structure of the neuron on its signaling hub known as the synapse. This disrupts

the ability of neurons to communicate with each other.

The failure of Solanezumab sheds light on how difficult it is to treat patients even with a mild form of dementia. This suggests the idea that by the time we see symptoms of dementia, it may be too late. Extensive damage could have already occurred in the brain by the time patients experience symptoms.

"Once you see amyloid on a scan, it's probably been there for decades," Dr. Samuel Gandy, an Alzheimer's researcher at Mount Sinai Hospital told *The New York Times*. "I'm worried and have been worried that that's just too late, I think it has a better chance of working much earlier."

Solanezumab had previously failed in two clinical trials involving patients with mild or moderate Alzheimer's disease.

However, the data from the trials suggested that the drug did have an effect on a subset of patients with a mild form of the disease, which is why Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, decided to pursue an additional trial.

Dr. Eric Reiman, executive director of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, is leading a project focused on preventing the disease. He is working with members of a large extended family in Colombia who do not have symptoms but have genetic mutations that put them at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Reiman says Eli

Lilly's trial results raises questions about whether the dose was high enough, whether the researchers developed the drug to target the right form of amyloid and whether the patients used for the trial were too late in the progression of the disease. The results also suggest that the treatment of Alzheimer's will

require multiple drugs that attack multiple aspects of the development of Alzheimer's.

In the end the failure of Solanezumab in this trial does not kill the leading theory of Alzheimer's, as Solanezumab and other drugs based on the "amyloid hypothesis" are still being tested in large clinical trials.

INSECT, FROM B7
author and assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology at UB, said in a press release.

According to Rajnarayanan, of those four million chemicals, they were able to quickly identify hundreds of thousands of compounds with readily available chemical structures. They then grouped the chemicals according to their structural similarities. From there they found that several groups had structures similar to that of melatonin.

"By directly interacting with melatonin receptors in the brain and peripheral tissues, environmental chemicals, such as carbaryl, may disrupt key physiological processes leading to misaligned circadian rhythms, sleep patterns, and altered metabolic functions increasing the risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes and metabolic disorders," Dubocovich, SUNY distinguished professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, said.

For example, she explained, there is a fine balance between the re-

lease of insulin and glucose in the pancreas at very specific times of day, but if that balance becomes disrupted over a long period of time, there is a higher risk of developing diabetes.

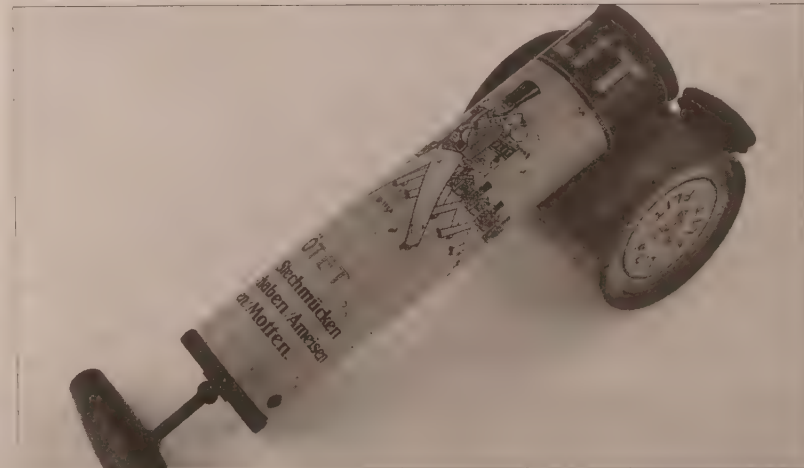
According to Popovska-Gorevski both insecticides were built like melatonin in structure and both were able to bind tightly and accurately to the melatonin receptor, potentially affecting how the body is able to pro-

duce insulin and regulate glucose levels.

"That means that exposure to them could put people at higher risk for diabetes and also affect sleeping patterns," Popovska-Gorevski said.

"This is the first report demonstrating how environmental chemicals found in household products interact with human melatonin receptors," said Dubocovich, who is also senior associate dean for diversity

Insecticides may be new risk factor for diabetes



HORSAF/CC BY-SA 3.0
Insecticides directly interact with melatonin receptors in the brain leading to altered metabolic functions.

and inclusion in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB.

"No one was thinking that the melatonin system was affected by these compounds, but that's what our research shows," she said.

The results suggest the federal government may need to change their approach in assessing the effect environmental factors have on the human circadian rhythm.

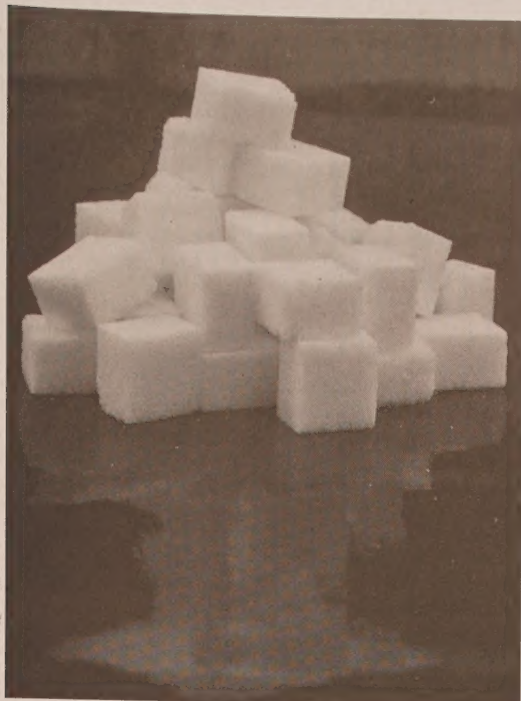
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sugar consumption increases health risks



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Research found that sugar type plays a role in determining health risk.

By ANNA CHEN
For The News-Letter

Sugar comes in many different forms, including fructose, which is often found in fruit and fruit juices, and glucose, one of the simplest forms of sugar into which carbohydrates are broken down in the body.

Excessive sugar intake is known to cause serious chronic diseases such as heart disease, vascular disorders, diabetes, obesity and liver damage.

In the past, many people assumed that sugar overconsumption was physically damaging due to the large number of calories contained in sugars, and this assumption is correct in part.

However, a recent study published in the *American Journal of Physiology — Heart and Circulatory Physiology* suggests that calorie count is not the only potential factor of chronic disease related to excessive sugar intake.

Researchers in the study found that, in addition to the number of calories we consume, the type of sugar we consume also influences risk of heart disease and diabetes.

During the study, female rats were split into two variable groups and one control group. One variable group was fed with a liquid glucose solution in addition to the rats' normal diet of solid food, while the other was given a fructose solution.

The control group drank plain water. The variable groups were fed a high-sugar diet for a period of eight weeks, which is approximately equivalent to a human consuming excessive sugar for six years, while the control group was not.

As expected, results from the experiment show that both sugar-fed groups had higher calorie intakes than the control group.

However, the rats given glucose consumed more calories than the rats given water, but surprisingly only the fructose-fed group experienced a significant increase in body weight.

The fructose group also showed indications of chronic vascular diseases and liver damage as compared to the glucose-fed group, including an increase in

triglycerides, negative effects on blood pressure and decreases in the liver's fat-burning abilities, which contributes to fatty liver disease.

In a separate research study involving 32 overweight or obese women and men with an average age of 50 years, results demonstrated more evidence of risk factors for heart disease and diabetes in subjects who received 25 percent of their daily caloric intakes from fructose-sweetened beverages for ten weeks versus those who got it from glucose-sweetened beverages.

Similar to the results obtained from the rat study, both groups of participants given large amounts of sugar experienced increases in body weight. However, measuring lipids in the blood revealed that fructose led to a greater increase in subjects' average triglycerides over 24 hours than glucose did.

Compared to the glucose group, the group that consumed fructose had higher total cholesterol and LDL (low density lipids) cholesterol, often known as bad cholesterol. They also experienced greater insulin resistance, a direct cause of diabetes.

When researchers observed the locations of fat gain on each study subject, imaging instruments showed that the fructose group gained more belly fat while the glucose group gained more subcutaneous fat, fat beneath the skin.

The link between serious long-term diseases such as heart attack and stroke is stronger for belly fat than for subcutaneous fat.

Both the rat and human studies mentioned above suggest that the type of sugar consumed, in addition to the number of calories consumed, plays a role in increasing health risks. This study does not intend to show that fructose is entirely unhealthy and that people should not eat any fruits or drink any juice.

However, the eye-opening results do demonstrate that individuals should control our consumption of sugar and eat sugar in moderation, especially when it comes to specific types of sugar such as fructose, in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle and avoid serious damage to our bodies.

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

While medical implants such as stents, catheters and various forms of inserted tubing provide medical benefits to many patients, these implanted devices pose great issues to a vast array of those with them. More specifically implanted devices increase risks of blood clots and infections in patients who need them.

To solve this compounding issue, engineers from the Colorado State University (CSU) have developed a "superhemophobic" titanium surface that repels blood. As such, this new material could act as the core substance used in future medical implants placed in patients' bodies.

Bridging the gap between biomedical engineering and materials science, these engineers used a method of unorthodox thinking to devise a contraption that would be less likely to be rejected by the human body. The project was published in *Advanced Healthcare Materials* and is a result of a cross-disciplinary collaboration between Arun Kota, assistant professor of mechanical engineers and biomedical engineering, and Ketul Popat, an associate professor in both departments.

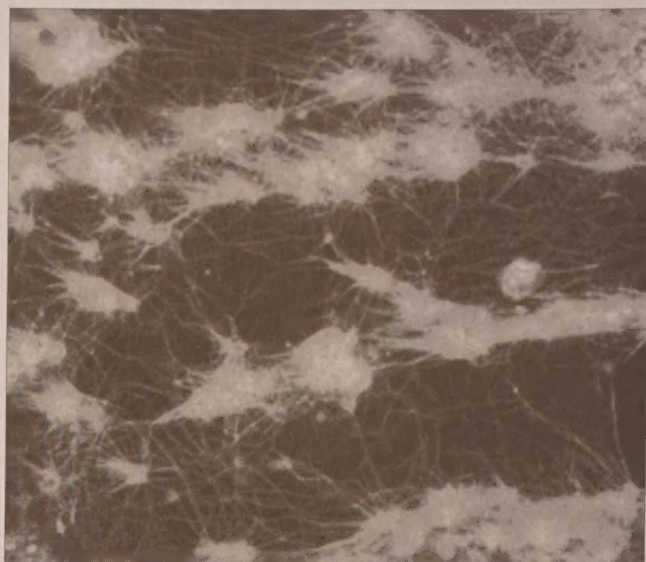
Kota's expertise comes from his work with "superomniphobic" substances

that preferentially avoid all liquids. This work, combined with Popat's knowledge of tissue engineering and materials that are accepted by the human body culminated in the radically new concept of titanium-based implants.

The combined efforts of their research labs laid the groundwork for material surfaces that acted as barriers between titanium and blood which minimized blood platelet attachment: the body's method for rejecting unfamiliar materials and a precursor to blood clots.

The unique idea behind the titanium-based implants lies in the fact that the team of engineers seem to employ an almost backwards methodology toward tackling the problem.

While many scientists working on the issue think using hemophilic materials, materials that preferentially come in contact with blood, is best, the engineers from CSU think the contrary. By using materials that would rather avoid blood, they



MITCHELL/CC-BY-2.0

Titanium repels blood, limiting blood contact with surface to prevent clotting.

are treated by blood as if they simply do not exist and are not the target of blood clotting.

"We are taking a material that blood hates to come in contact with, in order to make it compatible with blood," Kota said.

According to Popat, unwanted interaction between blood and foreign surfaces is unfortunately a longstanding problem in the medical field. Clots that arise from implants can ultimately be detrimental to a patient's overall health and often require the use of blood-thinning medications that are simply not foolproof.

"The reason blood clots is because it finds cells in the blood to go to

and attach," Popat said. "Normally, blood flows in vessels. If we can design materials where blood barely contacts the surface, there is virtually no chance of clotting, which is a coordinated set of events. Here, we're targeting the prevention of the first set of events."

The team of engineers has used a wide scope of chemically-treated titanium surfaces and has found that fluorinated nanotubes prevent clotting best. The team hopes to continue their efforts towards optimizing such a surface on the titanium implants that can solve the issue complicating the treatment of those who require medical implants.

Trump's policies may affect U.S. tech companies

TRUMP, FROM B7

IT services companies, which have always been fully compliant with the law," Shri R. Chandrashekar, president of NASSCOM, the trade association responsible for the Indian outsourcing industry said. "The industry is open to any kinds of checks in the system, but they should not cause any hindrance to the smooth operation of companies."

Other companies based in India insist that they first hire local talent in the U.S. and only resort to using the work-visa programs when they need to.

"We continue to hire and invest locally. However, given the skill shortages

in the U.S. and the availability of technically skilled

workforce in various global markets, we also rely upon visa programs to supplement these skills," an Infosys company spokesperson wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "For the long term, we are also exploring new operating models to ensure

business continuity as we navigate this dynamic environment.

This includes reducing our visa dependency and efforts towards making Infosys a preferred employer in the U.S."

If Trump's administration restricts work visas for technology

companies, there may be an increase for the costs

of companies and, subsequently, consumers.

"If a tech work-visa ban went into effect, ultimately the consumer would feel the brunt of the increased labor costs," Bandy said. "So American workers might have jobs, but we would all have to pay \$2,000 for an iPhone, so to speak."

Essentially, the work-visa conundrum comes down to the power and interests of four sides: Trump's administration, Congress, large American technology corporations and India-based outsourcing companies. With such differing perspectives in play, it may be a while before the issue gets resolved.



ELEKES ANDOR/CC-BY-SA-4.5

Microsoft opposes Trump's visa ban.

Artificial lung keeps woman alive until transplant

TRANSPLANT, FROM B7

and her family were eager to go ahead with the plan.

"Things were so bad for so long, we needed something to go right," Benoit's husband Chris said in a news release, "and this new procedure was the first piece of good news in a long time. We needed this chance."

The surgical team included three thoracic surgeons who worked to remove both of Benoit's lungs during a nine-hour procedure. Benoit was then placed on advanced life support system, which included two external life-support circuits connected to her heart through tubes placed through her chest. An artificial lung known as the Novalung was used to add oxygen to her blood and remove carbon dioxide.

Within hours Benoit's

condition improved, and she was weaned off the medications as her organs began to function themselves. When she was ready six days later, Benoit received a lung transplant.

"The transplant procedure was not complicated because half of it was done already," noted Dr. Cypel said. "Her new lungs functioned beautifully and inflated easily. Perfect."

Benoit's lung transplant was the first successful surgery of its kind. Ben-

oit's health condition has been only improving since her surgery.

Furthermore, the report of the surgery is published online in the November 2016 edi-

tion of *The Journal of Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery* as "Bilateral pneumonectomy to treat uncontrolled sepsis in a patient awaiting lung transplantation."



ROSEN/CC-BY-2.0

A serious bacterial infection rendered Benoit unable to receive a lung transplant.

SPORTS

Falcons, Patriots face off in Super Bowl LI

By **BRANDON WOLFE**
For *The News-Letter*

This is it, the second most important holiday in February for those in a relationship and the most important holiday for the rest, the second biggest day for food in the U.S. and one of the most watched sporting events in the world, the Super Bowl.

This year's installment of the battle for the Lombardi Trophy pits the NFC Champions, the Atlanta Falcons, against their AFC counterparts, the New England Patriots. The game will be held on Feb. 5 in Houston, Texas at NRG Stadium.

Atlanta will attempt to win the franchise's first ever Lombardi Trophy, having lost in their only other Super Bowl appearance against the Denver Broncos in 1999. Meanwhile, the Patriots look to win their fifth Super Bowl in their record ninth appearance.

New England fans are all too familiar with success under head coach Bill Belichick. Since Belichick's arrival, the Patriots have a record of 207-71 in the regular season and a 24-9 record in the postseason.

In his 17-year tenure, Belichick has had only one losing season, 14 playoff appearances, seven Super Bowl appearances and four Super Bowl titles. With a victory this year, Belichick would break Chuck Noll's record for most Super Bowl Championships by a head coach.

Much of New England's success can be credited to the consistently strong play of their future Hall of Fame quarterback Tom Brady.

Since taking over as the starter in 2001, Brady has been a 12-time Pro Bowler and a two-time MVP, not to mention a four-time Super Bowl champion. What has been most impressive is his success in the playoffs: He holds the NFL record for most games played, most touchdowns won, most touchdowns passes and most passing yards by a QB in playoff history.

Given their tremen-

dous history, the Patriots are three-point favorites against the Falcons. However, playing the role of underdog has been nothing new for the NFC champs.

In fact, as per the Westgate SuperBook, the Falcons were tied for the fifth worst Super Bowl odds of any team in the NFL at 80:1. It is not too difficult to see why Atlanta was not considered a legitimate contender this year. The Falcons were coming off a disappointing 2015 season, finishing 8-8 as starting quarterback Matt Ryan posted some of the worst numbers of his nine-year tenure in the League.

But that was 2015. This year, under second-year coach Dan Quinn, the Falcons have led the NFL in scoring with 33.8 points per game and 540 points total this year, tying the 2000 Los Angeles Rams for the eighth most all-time. Meanwhile, the Falcons posted an 11-5 record and earned a first round bye in the playoffs.

The Falcons offense was led by QB Matt Ryan. He is a likely MVP candidate after his 4,944 yards passing, 38 passing touchdowns and a completion percentage of nearly 70. His dominant performance has continued into the playoffs, throwing for 730 yards, seven touchdowns and no interceptions as the Falcons dominated the Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks by a combined score of 80-41.

While the headlines leading into the game will certainly revolve around Ryan vs. Brady, these two

gunslingers will be going against some stingy defenses. The Patriots have surrendered only 15.6 points per game this year, the best in the NFL, and the Falcons have routinely put pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Credit for this is due in the most part to potential NFL Defensive Player of the Year Vic Beasley, who led the league with 15.5 sacks.

Despite these two talented defenses, I still expect the game to be quite a shootout between the two offenses. The over/under of the game is currently 58.5 and both offenses are loaded with weapons. Wide receiver Julio Jones has been a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses, and Mohamed Sanu has proved to be a solid number two receiver for the Falcons.

With the New England defense expected to put attention on Jones, expect Sanu to be a target early and often. On the ground, the Falcons are armed with one of the best running back tandems in football. Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman have both shown equal capability to make big plays in the running and passing game.

Although Brady does not have a receiver with the sheer star power of Jones, he has a history of making the most of what he's got. His receivers include Julian Edelman, who will likely be Brady's primary target. Other weapons include Danny Amendola, Martellus Bennett and Chris Hogan. The latter received na-

tional attention after his performance in the AFC Championship against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Dion Lewis, the primary running back for the Patriots, has stepped up and shown himself to be a dynamic playmaker as well, contributing on the ground, through the air and in the return game, while LeGarrette Blount will be in play as the third-and-short and goal line back.

Despite both sides having numerous key players at their disposal, Hopkins freshman Nick Lemanski believes that the game will not come down to who does the most right but who does the least wrong.

"The game could come down to the very last drive, and every possession will count, which is why I believe the game will be won by the team who makes the fewest mistakes," Lemanski said. "Both teams have thrived this year by capitalizing off of their opponents' turnovers, penalties and other mistakes. Brady and Ryan have both been remarkable this season. One fumble, one interception or one dropped pass could ultimately decide who comes out on top."

Whether a fan of either side, a fan of football in general or someone that just wants to watch the games for the commercials, Super Bowl LI is poised to be an exciting game. At the end of 60 minutes, will it be Ryan's Falcons who finally capture their first Lombardi Trophy, or will it be Brady's Patriots who raise their fifth?

Could NBA Finals be a Warriors-Cavs rematch?



Gregory Melick
Sportpinion

With the NBA season more than halfway completed and the All-Star break coming up, fans have a pretty good picture of where every team stands. So far, all signs point to a rematch of last year's outstanding NBA Finals, with the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers both leading their respective conferences.

On an individual level, some players such as Russell Westbrook and James Harden have truly taken the next step, while some of the rookies who were supposed to make a big impact right away have not performed, either because of an injury or of an elongated adjustment period.

The following are my predictions for the playoffs and the end-of-season awards.

Most Valuable Player: Russell Westbrook, Oklahoma City Thunder

It is crazy to think that the best player in all of basketball this year will be coming off the bench for the All-Star game, but fans are still not all in on Russell Westbrook for some reason. In the past, he has been criticized for not getting the ball to Kevin Durant enough, but that can no longer be a criticism this year.

Durant has moved on to the Warriors, and Westbrook has been left with very few tools on a barren OKC roster. Even though he does not have much to work with, he is still having a historic season. He has gotten a triple-double in half of his team's games this year. He has been averaging a triple-double virtually all year, and still leads the NBA in scoring.

Without him, the Thunder would be deep in the cellar of the Western Conference standings, so there is no doubt that he deserves to be the Most Valuable Player.

Rookie of the Year: Joel Embiid, Philadelphia 76ers

"Trust the process" has become a phrase that has caught fire across the country because of Embiid's outstanding rookie year. He has averaged 20 points, eight rebounds and nearly three blocks per game, which all lead rookies by large margins.

No other rookie averages even 10 points per game, so Embiid is an easy and

obvious choice for rookie of the year. He seems to come up with electrifying highlights every night, so he seems worth the two years the 76ers had to wait for him.

Eastern Conference Champions: Cleveland Cavaliers

This pick is easy, not because of how well the Cavaliers have been playing, but because of how bad the rest of the Eastern Conference is. The Cavaliers have actually been extraordinarily underwhelming since Jan. 10, going 4-6 in those games and at one point losing six out of eight games, but they are still very much in control of the East.

The Cavaliers are the only Eastern Conference team with a top five record in the NBA. The other four teams all come from the Western Conference. During their losing streak, tensions seemed to be high when LeBron James called out the team's performance and their front office. If the Cavaliers hope to defend their championship, they must play much better than they are currently doing.

Western Conference Champions: Golden State Warriors

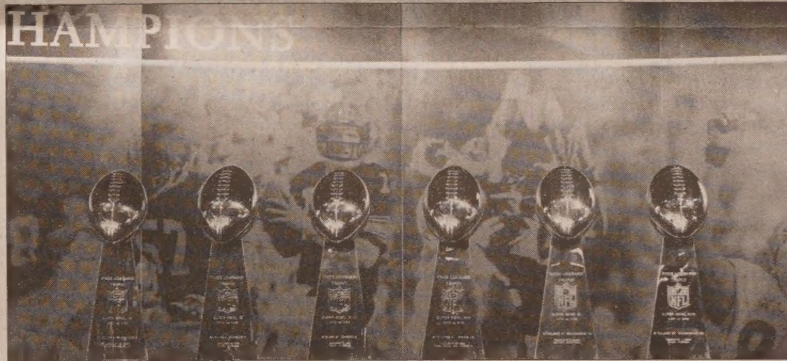
Many people see the Golden State Warriors' season as a failure because they have not matched last year's historic record, but if you take a step back and look at their season, they are having another amazing year.

At their current pace, they will end the season with a record of 70-12, which would be the third best record in the history of the NBA. This might be just what the Warriors need, as they can focus on remaining healthy and at full strength while heading into the playoffs, without the record looming over their heads.

NBA Champions: Golden State Warriors

It will take a major change from the Cleveland Cavaliers to win this rematch of the NBA Finals from a season ago. The return of J.R. Smith could round the Cavaliers closer to their postseason form from last year, but they will also need Kyle Korver to get accommodated to the team and return to his elite shooter status.

The Warriors will be hungry for redemption, and with the addition of Kevin Durant, they could take control of the series early on. The Durant-James matchup will be the one to watch, as the two are the leaders of their teams this year. While the Warriors are definitely the favorite, you can never count out a LeBron James team.



DAVEYNIN/CC-BY-2.0

The Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots will compete this Sunday for the Lombardi trophy.

M. basketball wins annual 9/11 memorial game

By **ANDREW JOHNSON**
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the Hopkins men's basketball team hosted the Ursinus Bears at the 16th Annual Wall-O'Mahony Memorial game. The event is one of the most important of the season for the Jays, as it honors the memory of Glenn Wall and Matt O'Mahony.

Both men starred on the Hopkins basketball team and were members of the 1984 class who sadly perished during the terror attacks of 9/11. The game is held annually during the Hopkins Basketball Alumni Weekend and serves as a time for the entire Blue Jay family to come together, reflect, bond and cheer on the current squad.

The atmosphere in Goldfarb Gym was electric as the Jays squared up against a tough Centennial Conference opponent. The Bears controlled most of the first half, but a number of gutsy Hopkins runs kept the deficit manageable. With the Bears up 22-13 early, the Jays refused to let the margin continue to grow and entered the locker room trailing 51-40.

However, the Jays erupted out of the gate to open the second half, utilizing a 15-4 run that would tie the game at 55 with 11:34 to play. Stand-out junior forward Kyle Doran sparked the rally in the first half by scoring the first six points for the Jays off the tip.

Trailing 55-52 in the second half, Doran drained a impressive three-pointer that sent shockwaves through Goldfarb and brought the Jays back from the brink of defeat.

The Bears would still respond, building their lead back to nine with less than four minutes to play. The Jays would need to dig deep and feed off the passion of their home crowd if they wanted to prevail, and they did just that. Sophomore guard Michael Gardner hit a jumper that sparked the 15-3 rally that ended with graduate student forward Sam Gordon giving the

Jays their first lead of the game, 69-68, with two minutes left to play.

With the score notched at 71 apiece, Gordon was able to corral the rebound off a miss from graduate student guard Austin Vasiliadis, kicking it out to Gardner. Gardner calmly crossed over his defender and drained a three pointer that would win the game for the Blue Jays.

Leading 74-71 with under three seconds to play, the Jays would successfully contest a half-court heave from the Bears, which hit the rim as time expired.

Doran led all scorers with 18 points and three steals for Jays in their victory. He was named the Wall-O'Mahony MVP for his performance and told *The News-Letter* that it was an honor he would not have claimed without the help of his teammates.

"To come back from that

deficit took a team effort, and winning that game is important to the team and all the alumni who came out to watch," Doran said. "Being named MVP just means my teammates found me for the most open shots that day. It is a great honor."

Gardner, who hit the game winning shot, said the key was the defense's improvement.

"In the second half, we really clamped down on defense. We allowed 51 [points] in the first and only 20 in the second half," Gardner said.

In the moments leading up to the final shot, Gardner remained confident.

"I have always dreamed of being in that situation with 10 seconds left and the ball in my hands. There wasn't enough time left for me to really think about it," Gardner said. "It was a surreal moment for me, especially for something like that to happen on alumni day, a game commemorating two men who were victims of the attacks on 9/11. I do not usually believe in this kind of stuff, but I like to think my dad was there with me during those final moments of the game."



ERIK DROST/CC-BY-2.0

Oklahoma City Thunder's potential MVP candidate, Russel Westbrook.

SPORTS

Women's basketball falls victim to Bears

W. BASKETBALL, FROM B12
second quarter with a scoring drought until Ursinus went on a 7-2 run to expand their lead.

Hopkins responded by scoring the final eight points of the quarter, two of them being a layup by Scholtz right at the buzzer. Hopkins outscored the Bears 12-9 in the second quarter but still went into half-time facing a 27-21 deficit.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Sophomore forward Maggie Spitzer

The Blue Jays started the third quarter with two consecutive layups and a few minutes later added one more from sophomore guard Lillian Scott to tie the game at 29-29 with a little under seven minutes left to play.

Ursinus responded with the next seven points to regain their lead. Spitzer came into the game and scored four points in the last minutes of the quarter. The score at the end of the third quarter was 38-33.

An 8-4 run by the Jays to open the fourth quarter nearly tied up the score at 42-41, but the Bears went on an eight-point run to finish off the game. The Jays failed to add to their score in the remaining minutes, and the final score was 50-41.

Scott tallied a team-high of 15 points during the game. Meanwhile, Scholtz added 11 points, with nine rebounds and three steals.

Despite the loss, the Jays had the opportunity to not only honor Hopkins women's basketball alumni before tipoff, but also gain insight from these former players about their experiences on the court and after college. The five women honored were members of the 1997 team, who reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament and are the only team in program history to do so thus far.

Maggie Spitzer talked about the brunch before the game with members of the 1997 team and the impact that it had on the current Jays.

"The Alumni Brunch was an incredible experience that allowed us to network with former women's basketball

players from Hopkins," Spitzer said. "Their vast spread of careers, personal stories and perspectives on their time at Hopkins were very inspirational. Those connections will be so helpful as we pursue careers in similar fields, and we were so lucky to have had the chance to meet some of the amazing women from this program who have come before us."

The Blue Jays have seen immense improvement throughout the season, the freshmen class being an integral part to the process. "Our team has developed so much over that past few months," Spitzer said. "We have found our team chemistry on the court and have learned how to play to each other's strengths. Our freshmen specifically have stepped up in games and continued to grow and adapt to the college game."

Although the Jays have pride in their development, they are not going to settle. They plan to head into their next Centennial Conference game stronger than they have in the past.

"Heading into the Gettysburg game, we are looking to avenge our loss earlier in the year. We have improved so much as a team, especially on defense, since that loss, and we just have to play well for all four quarters," Spitzer said.

Hopkins will have a few more opportunities to face off against Centennial Conference competitors, and they are confident that favorable outcomes will follow if they train hard and embody the right attitude.

"For the rest of the season, we are looking to finish strong and approach every remaining conference game with a must-win mentality," Spitzer said.

"The Conference has been shaken up a lot all year, and we just have to worry about what is in our control. If we take care of business and get into the Conference playoffs, we know we can handle anyone that comes our way."

By GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

Following a freshman year with very little action on the court, sophomore guard Michael Gardner is shining in his second season at Home-

wood. After averaging just 8.7 minutes per game last year, Gardner is now playing 25.6 minutes per game with 13 starts. He has increased his scoring production by over six times, averaging 9.5 points per game compared with just 1.5 a season ago. Perhaps most impressively, Gardner

is sporting a .470 three-point percentage, which is second best on the team for anyone with over 20 attempts. Gardner has been a key contributor on a team that is currently tied for the Centennial Conference lead with a 9-3 record in Conference play and 13-6 overall. This past week, Gardner turned in a standout performance during a 66-51 win against the McDaniel Green Terror. He led the team with 16 points and six rebounds, both team highs.

Against the Ursinus Bears, Gardner scored a game winning three-pointer in the closing seconds of the game, capping off a comeback win.

For these efforts, *The News-Letter* has decided to recognize Gardner as the Athlete of the Week. He was kind enough

to answer some of our questions. *The News-Letter*: How have you improved as a player over the past year?

Michael Gardner: Last year was definitely tough for me minutes-wise. Rarely have I been on teams where I was not even in the running for a starting job.

I learned a lot playing behind guys like Gene [Williams] and Austin [Vasiliadis]. When Austin went down last year, I was kind of thrown into the fire, backing up Jesse [Flannery] for part of the year.

It really took a year to adjust to the pace of the college game as opposed to what I experienced in high school. Also, I have to give a lot of credit to Coach Breslin, who would (and still does)

stay after practice with me most days, rebounding for me and putting me through tough workouts to keep my skills sharp.

All of that contributed to me becoming a more confident player, and I think that has become more evident on the court this year.

N-L: What do you think has been behind your success from beyond the three-point line this season?

MG: Repetition has been the key to my success. I struggled from three last year, and I made it my goal this summer to really improve my three point shot, because I knew that skill would keep me on

the court. All summer and most days after practice, I take as many game-like threes as I can. Whether it is spot up threes, threes off the dribble or threes off of screens, I have tirelessly practiced being in every type of position.

The morning of game days, a few teammates and I have a routine of getting shots up. Seeing the ball go through the hoop at the beginning of the day always gives me confidence for the game, and half the battle of being a good three point shooter is having confidence in yourself.

N-L: What goes on inside your head when it is time to make a key shot like the game winner against Ursinus? How do you keep the nerves down?

MG: I have truly dreamed of that type of moment since I was six years old. I have always had a plastic hoop in my room that hangs on my door.

When I was younger, I would always pretend there was 10 seconds left on the clock with the ball in my hands. I would make a move, take a shot and the pretend crowd would go wild.

When I got the ball during the Ursinus game with 10 seconds left, I really had no doubts. Honestly, I did not really have time to think of the moment. I have played against number 30 on Ursinus, who is a fantastic player himself, a few times and I knew he would bite on my cross-over.

In the timeout before that possession, I told Austin [Vasiliadis] that I could take the guy and make the shot if push came to shove.

When Sam [Gordon] heroically grabbed that

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Michael Gardner
Year: Sophomore
Sport: Basketball
Major: Economics
Hometown: New York, NY
High School: Riverdale Country School

Tennis legends achieve victory in Melbourne

TENNIS, FROM B12

memorable Majors that tennis has seen in years.

Right off the bat, the tournament was hit with an unexpected upset, as Djokovic was eliminated in the second round.

The loss, which was "Djoker's" earliest exit since Wimbledon in 2008, immediately opened up the field and was the first glimmer of hope for Federer and Nadal. In the fourth round, both Murray and Kerber were eliminated, and possibility of both Federer vs. Nadal and Serena vs. Venus arose. However, all four players still had a lot of work to do.

Yet, they all did what they had to do. Over the course of the tournament, Federer handled Tomáš Berdych in three sets and both Nishikori and Wawrinka in five sets. Meanwhile Nadal overcame Gaël Monfils, Raonic and Grigor Dimitrov. The latter pushed Nadal to the limit in a grueling five-set marathon in the semifinal that lasted nearly five hours.

Serena's path was relatively easy, and she never lost a set en route to the final. Venus faced her biggest challenge in fellow American Coco Vandeweghe in the semifinal, but she prevailed in the third set and cruised into the final without considerable

difficulty. Venus and Serena's match on Saturday was fairly one-sided, with Serena getting the best of her older sister 6-4.

As the player with the most Major titles in the grand slam era and as the oldest player to ever win a Major, it is hard to argue that Serena Williams is not the greatest player in her sport's history.

She and Venus play unlike any women the sport has ever seen, and they have dramatically elevated the reputation of women's tennis as a whole.

While the two will eventually reach the point where they walk away from tennis, their legacies will endure for generations to come.

The women's final had great storylines, but the match itself did not quite live up to the hype. The men's final, on the other hand, lived up to and exceeded every possible expectation.

The match was back and forth from start to finish, culminating in a drama-filled fifth set that included numerous

and unexpected momentum shifts. The quality of play was absolutely sensational, and neither player allowed fatigue to get the better of them.

The two had both battled for five sets in the semifinal, but Federer was fortunate enough to have an extra day to rest before the match.

After falling behind 3-1 in the fifth set, Federer, who had never previously defeated Nadal in Australia, appeared to be in danger of letting another match slip away.

However, he was able to find another gear and win five consecutive games to finish off his Spanish foe.

None of these games came easy, but Federer had just enough energy to overcome his relentless rival. The will and determination of both players was extraordinary, and they added yet another all-time classic to the history books.

The big story of the Australian Open is Federer, though. Little was expected from him. He was playing in his first tournament of any kind

since Wimbledon, and it had been seven years since he had last hoisted the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup in Melbourne.

Yet, in the latest installment of the greatest rivalry that tennis has ever seen, Federer somehow found a way. As an 18-time Major champion, he has cemented his legacy as the greatest player in the history of men's tennis.

This Australian Open was great for tennis. The excitement of the fans was palpable, whether in their silent but evident anxiety during rallies or in their thunderous applause between points.

Federer, Nadal and the Williams sisters elevate the sport's popularity when they succeed, and as long as they play, the sport will continue to be loved by fans around the world.

But the future also seems bright with the likes of Dimitrov and Vandeweghe having noteworthy breakthroughs. Numerous other new talents also exceeded expectations throughout the tournament.

If this tournament tells us anything, though, it is to expect the unexpected. 2017 should be a great season for tennis, and fortunately, it is just getting started.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK MICHAEL GARDNER — M. BASKETBALL



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Sophomore Michael Gardner.

offensive board and gave me the ball, I knew exactly what I was going to do. I waved off a couple of screens and I just had my moment.

N-L: Who are some of the key influences in your basketball career so far?

MG: My dad played college ball at Haverford and he was the biggest basketball fan. All through his life, he played in every corporate league he could find in New York City.

When he passed away on September 11, my mom, who also knows the game pretty well, was the one who passed on his legacy to me. She taught me the basic fundamentals and basketball principles such as the "give and go."

My stepfather, who I call "D," would also play with me. He taught me the importance of being able to go both ways, and that is when I truly grew passionate about the game.

Through the years, there have been a number of coaches and mentors who have refined my game and made me a better and smarter player. Giving them all shout-outs would take forever, but they know who they are.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Sophomore Lexie Scholtz was one of the top scorers against Ursinus.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Andrew Barnett was named the Centennial Conference Field Athlete of the Week for the third time this season following a dominant showing at the Patriot Games in the Heptathlon.

CALENDAR

Friday:
Swimming @ College Cup

Saturday:
M. basketball vs. Dickinson; 4 p.m.
Wrestling vs. Washington & Lee;
12 p.m.
W. track @ Frank Colden Invite

All-time tennis greats shine Down Under



Daniel Landy
DanLand

In the United States, watching the Australian Open is no easy task. Melbourne, Australia is 16 hours ahead of USA's Eastern Time Zone, which means that the tournament's prime-time matches begin in the middle of the night in the U.S., with the long matches extending into the wee hours of the morning.

However, those who decided to bite the bullet and watch the tournament over the last two weeks were definitely rewarded, as this Australian Open turned out to be one of the most entertaining, historic and stunning tournaments in recent memory.

The storylines were unexpected but satisfying, as several of the sport's most celebrated legends put doubts aside and continued to solidify their place atop the tennis pantheon.

Federer, Nadal, Serena and Venus. These are the names

I grew up hearing. They were the best. They were unstoppable. They were hailed as the greatest talents the sport

had ever seen. Year after year, Major after Major, they hoisted trophies, and they were by and large untouchable against anyone except each other.

The question was never whether or not they would reach the latter stages of a Major, but whether they would claim the top prize; It was always championship or bust.

For years, Nadal and Federer owned men's tennis. Between 2005 and 2010, the two combined won at least three of the sport's four Majors every single year. As time went on, though, the two both eventually ran into obstacles.

In the case of Nadal, it was nagging injuries, often to his knees, that kept him out of tournaments or resulted in his premature departures in the early stages of Majors.

Until 2015, the Spaniard had continued his absolute dominance at the French Open — winning nine of the last 10 tournaments at Roland-Garros. However, with the exception of the French Open, he had won only one other Major since 2010.

As for Federer, the

35-year-old Swiss entered 2017 having won only one Major since 2010 and having lost his last three matches in Major finals — each to Novak Djokovic.

Additionally, he missed two Majors at the Olympics in 2016 due to knee issues that required two surgeries, along with several other minor setbacks. 2016 was the first year he missed a Major since he entered professional tennis in 1999.

It appeared that, after an illustrious career, age had finally gotten the better of the most decorated Grand Slam champion in the history of men's tennis.

With Federer and Nadal struggling, the mantle for tennis supremacy had been passed on to Djokovic and Andy Murray, with the likes of Stan Wawrinka, Milos Raonic and Kei Nishikori right on their heels.

Nadal and Federer both had a great run, but like all good things, their supremacy in men's tennis came to an end, and their elite status was waning.

On the women's side, Venus Williams was all but written off at this point. At 36 years old with no wins in Majors since 2008, the seven-time Major champion was given little consid-

eration as the tournament's 13th ranked player.

She had performed better in 2016 than in the previous several years,

but few expected her to advance deep into a tournament in which she had not reached a final since 2003.

Her sister Serena, on the other hand, was faced with extremely high expectations after a disappointing 2016 campaign. Serena won only one Major in 2016 after winning three in 2015.

The 22-time Major champion was not performing at the caliber that people had grown accustomed to, and she lost the number one world ranking to Angelique Kerber following last year's U.S. Open. She was expected to bounce back, but some critics had their doubts about her durability moving forward.

Overall, these four tennis greats entered the Australian Open with some of the strongest resumes in the sport's history, but if you had said that they would all be finalists in the tournament, it would have been more wishful thinking than a realistic possibility.

What do the greats do, though? They defy logic, expectations and time. And in this case, the result was one of the most

SEE TENNIS, B11

M. basketball rallies late to down Ursinus



This past weekend, the Hopkins men's basketball team faced off against the Ursinus College Bears at the 16th annual Wall-O'Mahony game. The game honors the lives of Glenn Wall and Matt O'Mahony, two Hopkins alumni and basketball standouts who perished during the attacks of 9/11. In a highly emotional atmosphere, sophomore Michael Gardner drained a game-winning three, following a late Hopkins rally. The Jays won 74-71 in a contest that will long be remembered by all those in attendance.

B10

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Super Bowl Preview: Patriots vs. Falcons

Brandon Wolfe previews the Super Bowl matchup between the Patriots and the Falcons, highlighting which contributors to watch out for on each side.

PAGE B10

NBA Mid Season Update

Gregory Melick offers up his NBA midseason picks for Rookie of the Year and MVP, while predicting a highly anticipated finals rematch.

PAGE B10

Colwell's Court: Michael Gardner

This week, *The News-Letter* honors sophomore guard Michael Gardner, who hit the game winning three against Ursinus in the Wall-O'Mahony game.

PAGE B11

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Hopkins track dominates at Patriot Games

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams smashed records and posted nation-leading performances at the George Mason Patriot Games. The team traveled to Fairfax, Va. for the two days of competition that began on Friday, Jan. 27.

The first day of competition ended with a number of personal records and even a new Centennial Conference record. Sophomore Felicia Koerner continued to showcase her strength on the track after a breakthrough cross country season earlier this fall.

Koerner led a flock of Blue Jays in the 5,000 meter. Crossing the line in record-breaking fashion, Koerner clocked 16:41 for the 3.1 mile race.

Koerner's 5,000 meter time from earlier this season led D-III rankings. However, Koerner managed to smash her own nation-leading time by 15 seconds at the Patriot Games, breaking into the all-time D-III performances in the 5K.

"My goal at the beginning of the season was to be an All-American," Koerner said. "But now I am

thinking I should maybe reexamine that and aim higher."

All-American, at this point, almost seems certain for Koerner in the coming months. In fact, her 3,000 meter split of 9:47 during the 5K race is the fourth best all-time record in Centennial Conference history and seven seconds faster than her 3,000 meter performance earlier this season, which currently leads the Conference.

"I would say there is definitely some added pressure," Koerner said about her nation-leading times. "Things are still bound to change before and during the big races, but for now I am just grateful for the season I am having."

For the third time this season and the second week in a row, the sophomore was named the Centennial Conference Women's Track Athlete of the Week, announced on Monday.

The second day of competition was highlighted by the men's own record-breaking performances. Senior Andrew Barnett led the Blue Jays in the heptathlon with 5,141 points at the Patriot Games. Barnett not only broke the Centennial Conference record in

the event, but his performance now leads D-III.

Barnett's success earned him Centennial Conference Men's Field Athlete of the Week honors for the third time this season and the second week in a row. His performance is just short of breaking the top 10 all-time DIII performances, sitting at 11th.

Another Hopkins record would fall when senior Tom Pavarini finished strong. Coming in fifth place, Pavarini clocked 2:30 in the 1,000 meter race to break the all-time school record.

Other notable performances at the games included a first place finish in the 3,000 meter run by senior Tess Meehan. Clocking a time of 10:08, Meehan crossed the line a full 20 seconds faster than the second finisher.

Meehan was followed by sophomore teammate Tasha Freed, who landed a third place finish.

Senior Shannon Martello had an impressive day at George Mason, finishing top four in both the 800 meter run and the mile. Her time of 2:21 in the 800 meter is the fastest this season by a Blue Jay in the event.

After finishing third in the 800, Martello came back to finish fourth in the mile, clocking 5:16. Martello was followed by a pack of teammates, including sophomore Gina D'Addario and freshman Rebecca Grusby.

The Blue Jays will be back on the track this Saturday, Feb. 4 to compete in the Frank Colden Invitational hosted by Ursinus College. The Jays will travel to Collegeville, Pa. to compete.

W. basketball comes up short against Bears

By ESTHER HONG
For The News-Letter

Despite a relentless second half comeback, the Hopkins women's basketball team fell 11 points short to the Ursinus College Bears, losing 51-40.

"After losing to Ursinus earlier in the season, we were looking to make some adjustments," sophomore forward Maggie Spitzer said. "But on Saturday, we struggled to find our confidence early and gave them too many chances on both ends, which they capitalized on. We made our way back in the second half but just

could not sustain a solid run to put the game away."

Sophomore guard Lexie Scholtz put Hopkins on the scoreboard with a three-pointer just two minutes into the game. The Bears quickly responded, gaining a 6-3 lead with seven minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Freshman guard Maggie Wodicka and sophomore forward Marissa Varnado hit two free throws each, but Ursinus battled back again for an 18-9 lead at the end of the quarter.

Both teams opened the

SEE W. BASKETBALL, B11



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Women's track competes during the first day of the Patriot Games.